



Homes proposed in regeneration of Blackheath site

43 APARTMENTS FOR DAY CENTRE

Report by Richard Guttridge

A FORMER day centre is set to be converted into more than 40 apartments.

Homes would be created at Regis Lodge in Blackheath, under new plans submitted to Sandwell Council. Developers have moved to try to regenerate the building, which sold for almost £500,000 at auction last year.

A total of 43 apartments would be created, with Regis Lodge to be extended as part of the development.

The lodge, on George Avenue, went on the market last year following its closure.

It had previously been used by Sandwell Council.

A mix of one and two-bedroom apartments would be created with the existing access to the building to remain.

Developers also plan to take advantage of the car park already at the site, which would be extended to provide more parking spaces for residents.

A courtyard previously used by elderly visitors would become a communal garden.

Blackheath councillor Danny Millard said the plans would be a boost for the area.

He said: "It is good to have more places for people to live."

"Blackheath is a popular area and it is no surprise people want to build new homes here."

Redevelopment

"It is a good location there so it shouldn't cause too many problems and is making good use of a disused building."

A design statement by Zebra Architects, which has drawn up the plans, said: "As an edge-of-town-centre redevelopment, the proposal is inherently sustainable."

"The site is within a short walking distance from an excellent range of amenities."

"The proposal centres around the reuse of an existing building. This also brings with it inherent sustainability advantages as materials required to facilitate the development can be kept to a minimum."

"The existing building has been re-planned internally to utilise the existing access point to the building, as well as a redesigned car park."

"The vehicular access point remains as per the existing, which provides easy access for refuse collection as well as service access."

Rowley Lodge sold for almost three times its asking price when it went up for auction with SDL Bigwood.

The proposals will now be assessed by Sandwell Council planning officers, with a decision expected in the coming weeks.

DUNCAN'S EARLY DAYS RECREATED FOR A FILM



Filming The Boy who Had It All at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley with Callum Hay as the young Duncan Edwards

SCENES for a film about the life of Dudley's football legend Duncan Edwards have been shot at the Black Country Living Museum.

The cast and crew of The Boy Who Had It All – along with around 100 extras – descended on the tourist attraction on Monday.

The project is the brainchild of Dudley filmmaker Marcus Distant who is hoping to create a finished film of between 10 to 13 minutes long, which will be uploaded to YouTube.

Filming began last year with several scenes shot at Dudley Cemetery on Stourbridge Road.

This week at the Black Country Living Museum the cameras were rolling by the canal and youngster Cameron Hay was portraying the Manchester United and England hero in his formative years.

Mr Distant said: "The film starts off a bit like Titanic, in the 'present', and then goes back in time."

"We filmed last year at his graveside and by his statue and that will all be in the 'present' time. The stuff we are doing here at the Black Country Living Museum will be like a memory."

"We have got about 100 extras that we are going to film to try and recreate Dudley town in the 1940s."

Mr Distant added that filming at the site would take around one day and the film could be screened for the first time in August.

The project itself has come about thanks to a crowdfunding campaign which raised £5,000.

The writer and director spent more than a year conducting in depth research about the player, who died of injuries sustained in the 1958 Munich air disaster.

TRAGEDY

Funeral is held of mother and son

THE funeral of a mother and son who were killed at their home in Stourbridge took place yesterday (Wednesday) at St Mary's Church in Oldswinford.

Tracey Wilkinson, 50, and son Pierce, 13, were stabbed at their home in Greyhound Lane in March. Husband and father Peter Wilkinson, 47, was badly injured. He is being comforted by his daughter Lydia, who was at university.

Aaron Barley, 23, has admitted the attempted murder of Mr Wilkinson. He has not yet been asked to enter other pleas.

ALERT

Merry Hill bomb scare over bag

MERRY Hill shopping centre was partially evacuated due to fears over a suspicious package.

Hundreds of shoppers were told to leave as part of the centre was cordoned off on Tuesday morning.

However, it turned out to be a false alarm as a bag left at the Paperchase store on the upper floor was found to contain only rubbish.

Merry Hill bosses had decided to evacuate part of the centre as a precaution.

COURT

More inquiries over Megan death case

A JUDGE has allowed more time for investigations into the death of a teenager whose body was found in a clingfilm-wrapped wardrobe at a flat in Brierley Hill.

Ashley Foster, aged 24, who is charged with preventing the lawful and decent burial of Megan Bills, appeared at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Monday. Prosecution and defence made a joint application for a further two weeks for more inquiries.

Police found the body of 17-year-old Miss Bills at the Highgate Road flat.

Foster was remanded in custody to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on June 21.

INSIDE

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2 CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
MEMORY LANE	19
GARDENING	22
THE TICKET	23
BRAIN GYM	29
PROPERTY	32
SPORT	39 & 40
CONTACT US	

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GENERAL ELECTION 2017: THE CANDIDATES LINE UP

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Ben France - Liberal Democrat
Les Jones - Conservative
Andrew Nixon - Green



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Labour

DUDLEY SOUTH
Mitch Bolton - UKIP
Jon Bramall - Liberal Democrat
Jenny Maxwell - Green
Natasha Millward - Labour
Mike Wood - Conservative



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UKIP

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Stuart Henley - UKIP
James Morris - Conservative
James Robertson - Green
Jamie Scott - Liberal Democrat
Tim Weller - Independent



Dudley North
Ben France
Liberal Democrat



Dudley North
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Conservative

STOURBRIDGE
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Margot James - Conservative
Pete Lowe - Labour
Andi Mohr - Green
Glen Wilson - UKIP



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Andrew Nixon
Green



Dudley South
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Dudley South
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Liberal Democrat



Dudley South
Jenny Maxwell
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Dudley South
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Dudley South
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Conservative



Halesowen Rowley R
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Stourbridge
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Green



Stourbridge
Glen Wilson
UKIP

Children's home will 'minimise' cuts to jobs

A CHILDREN'S home where dozens of jobs are at risk has said it wants to 'minimise' compulsory redundancies.

Staff at Sunfield Children's Home, at Clent, between Stourbridge and Bromsgrove, are facing an uncertain future after it was announced all staff roles would be reviewed.

The independent special school employs more than 300 people and has recently been taken over by Ruskin Mill, which runs the Glasshouse College in Stourbridge and Ruskin Mill College in Gloucestershire.

Sunfield Principal Caroline Bell said had Ruskin Mill not stepped in, the home in Clent would have had to close.

A consultation is now under way with workers while discussions are being held with unions.

The home supports 98 children and young people aged between six and 19, many of whom have severe learning difficulties.

Ms Bell said: "I want to stress that we are very keen to minimise compulsory redundancies if we can, and have been looking at a range of other measures as part of an overall review."

"Our proposed reorganisation is not just about getting things back on to a firmer financial footing - it is also intended to set the school on a path to improvement and long term stability that will allow it to continue its vitally important work."

She added: "This is obviously an unsettling time, in fairness, to all those involved."

Funds top £7k in memory of victim

A FUNDRAISING appeal for the funeral of a man killed in a suspected hit-and-run in Halesowen has raised more than £7,000.

Benjamin Morse, aged 36, died when he was hit by a car at around 12.15am on May 1.

Police charged a 21-year-old man on suspicion of Mr Morse's murder two weeks ago.

The fundraising page on the Just Giving website was aiming to raise £6,000 for the funeral of Arsenal fan Mr Morse, but donations have already surpassed £7,794.

A statement on the page states: "Due to the sheer number who have requested details of where they can donate to the funeral/celebration of Ben's life, we have decided to create this funding avenue."

NHS plea for more donors to give blood

AN APPEAL has been made for blood donors. NHS Blood and Transplant are holding sessions at Darkhouse Baptist Church in Coseley on June 12 between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and 4.30 and 7.30pm. Call 0300 123 2323 or see www.blood.co.uk website.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

New £275m city centre homes plan

PROPERTY development business Regency Residential is to submit a scheme for a mixed-use development on a run-down site in Bristol Street, Birmingham.

The £275 million garden village scheme known as New Monaco is next to Bristol Street Motors and involves more than 1,000 apartments and town houses. If approved by Birmingham City Council, the homes would be built during the final quarter of 2021.

Plans to build a Tesco superstore on the former Monaco House site were dropped at the start of 2015.

Rugby club host food and crafts

A FOOD and craft festival at Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club this weekend is in aid of Compton Hospice.

The outdoor event will be held between 10am and 6pm on Saturday, and aims to showcase local traders and crafters. Organiser Vicki Wootton said: "This is the first food and craft festival the hospice has organised and we are looking forward to seeing a range of artisan stalls showcasing the best the Midlands has to offer."

Tickets cost £2.50 for adults with under-12s free. For more information call Vicki on 0845 225 5497.

Tenants move out of doomed flats

MORE than 100 tenants have moved out of four high-rise flats that are due to be demolished.

A total of 107 residents have now moved out of four tower blocks in Netherton.

Arley Court, Compton Court, Manor Court and Wells Court have been earmarked for demolition by Dudley Council by 2023. Bosses decided the blocks, built in the 1960s, were no longer sustainable, as they need over £9 million on maintenance.

Fun for all the family at village country fair

KINVER Country Fair is being held in the South Staffordshire village near Stourbridge on Sunday, June 18.

The event begins at 11am with a parade of vintage vehicles along the High Street. The fair will celebrate the centenary of the National Trust acquiring Kinver Edge.

The arena programme is headlined by equestrian display team, The Calvary of Heroes. Admission costs £6 for adults, children under 12 go free. See www.kinvercountryfairye.com

Craft session at cone

A PAPER crafts workshop for adults will be taking place at a museum.

The event will be held at the Red House Glass Cone, in Wordsley, on June 16.

It is aimed at people who enjoy talking and socialising. It will run from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

Raider jailed after he was confronted by resident

A WOMAN found a raider trying to break into her home when she went to investigate after hearing a noise

Ryan Sheldon, who had already raided the garden shed, was standing at the back door and holding a large spanner, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

"The woman was absolutely petrified, thinking he was going to smash the window," said Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting. "She told him to leave but he did not move until she started swearing. Then he began to walk away pulling a blue suitcase."

The 28-year-old broke into a run when told the police had been called and was followed by the woman who saw him climb over a fence into an alleyway.

Then her partner and nephew reached the scene and detained the culprit until officers arrived.

The blue suitcase held tools stolen from the garden shed while around £400 worth of damage had been done to the back door of the house in New Street, Quarry Bank.

Mr Stephen Hamblett, defending, said Sheldon, who had 23 previous convictions involving 33 offences, had mental health problems and a 'chronic' drug addiction.

Sheldon, of Northfield Road, Netherton, was jailed for a year after pleading guilty to attempting to burgle the house and breaking into the shed.

Judge Michael Challinor told him: "The woman is still feeling the effects in that she does not feel safe in her own home."

Second teenager on murder charge

A SECOND teenager has been charged with the murder of a father-of-two from Netherton.

Damilola Johnson, 18, is accused of killing Simon Johnson, who is not a relation.

On Saturday, a 16-year-old boy, who cannot be named due to legal reasons, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court, also charged with the 41-year-old's murder.

It brings the number of people charged as part of the investigation to three. A 16-year-old is accused of burglary on the same night Mr Johnson was found dead.

Simon Johnson, a window fitter, was found at his home on Cradley Road on August 16. He died from stab wounds.

Placebo mark 20 years at Civic gig

ALTERNATIVE rock idols Placebo, fronted by Brian Molko, have a gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on October 21, as part of their 20 Years of Placebo tour. Tickets on sale at 9am tomorrow (Friday) on 0870 320 7000.

Thief is pictured by CCTV during raid



The thief attempts to steal a jet washer

A THIEF broke into a family business and caused £1,000 of damage.

Police have launched an investigation after a thief was caught on camera breaking into Howells Patent Glazing in Cradley Heath.

A person could be seen climbing up a set of ladders to make off over a wall with a jet-washer in their hand. The incident took place on Bank Holiday Monday at 11.54am.

Tracey Jackson, who runs the firm alongside her family, says the thief caused around £1,000 of damage and stole two sat nav systems.

The firm has now tightened security at the Woods Lane site.

Ms Jackson said: "We have become more vigilant and have put protective measures in place as a safeguard."

"It was really upsetting to see someone breaking into our business. We have been at the site since 2008 and it is the first time something like this has happened."

Staff members were alerted to the break-in the following morning after they found the washer hanging off the fence, because the thief had been unsuccessful in his attempt to steal it.

The thief also broke into two vans and stole two sat navs, damaging the doors and windows of the vehicles in the process.

"You feel violated that someone wants to come into your business and take things," said Ms Jackson.

"Our jet-washer is broken, the doors to the vans are broken and the windows were smashed. We believe over £1,000 worth of damage was caused."

The glazing business has operated for almost 50 years.

Police are investigating.

A PARKING warden twice attacked a homeless man in a car park, until his colleague stepped in, allowing the victim to escape.

Benjamin Broadhurst was on duty when he carried out the unprovoked attack in a stairwell at Halesowen's Pool Road car park, Walsall Magistrates Court heard.

The 53-year-old Dudley Council enforcement officer targeted his victim as he slept in the stairwell, magistrates were told. The victim was punched him in the body and face while he was in his sleeping bag.

The assault was only stopped due to the intervention of Broadhurst's colleague.

But the attack continued when the victim's escape route was blocked by a steel gate at the bottom of the stairwell. The victim was again confronted again by Broadhurst, who punched him several times in the face as he came back up the stairs.

Broadhurst's colleague again stopped the attack, allowing the victim's to finally escape.

Following the incident on January 15, Broadhurst, of Highfield Lane, Halesowen, was arrested.

He later pleaded guilty to battery on the day his trial was due to begin at Walsall Magistrates Court.

He was given a 12-week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months.

Defenceless

He was ordered to pay £100 compensation and £500 court costs as well as carry out 100 hours unpaid work.

Helen Whitehead, prosecuting, said: "This was an unprovoked, violent attack on a defenceless and vulnerable man who was sleeping rough at the time of the assault."

"Benjamin Broadhurst initially claimed he acted to defend himself. However, there was no evidence to support this."

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the witness who stepped in to stop the attack which enabled the victim to make his escape."

Matt Williams, the council's chief officer for environmental services, said: "A member of staff is currently the subject of an ongoing internal investigation following the conclusion of criminal proceedings. He is currently not in work."

Organisers warm up for fourth run



Steve Edwards from the Black Country Festival and Rotarian Alan Bowler with members of Cobra Running Club

ORGANISERS are gearing up to hold the fourth Black Country run where up to 1,200 people are expected to take part.

Streets will be closed off in Halesowen when the run takes place on July 2.

Race organisers are encouraging people to sign up for the event, which will offer competitive and non-competitive categories for runners of different abilities.

It has been organised by the

Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis. Organiser Alan Bowler said: "We want people to come along and enjoy themselves, get fit and raise money for charity."

"Last year we had around 1,200 people take part so hopefully we can get the same number again."

The event was first held in 2012 in the year of the London Olympics. It has helped to raise more than £100,000 for charity since launching.

The race will begin at 9.45am with a competitive 5km run, where participants will have to complete a set course in 30 minutes. This will be followed by a 10km run held at 10.45am and family run at 11.30am.

Is taking place during, and as part of, the Black Country Festival.

For more information about the race, visit www.theblackcountryrun.co.uk website

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4 Thug admits attempted murder of security man

A BURGLAR has admitted the attempted murder of a factory security guard, aged 73, after attacking him with a shovel as he lay defenceless on the ground.

CCTV footage at Stoke Forgings in Brierley Hill showed Lee Parsons raining blows on his victim. Parsons kept up the savage attack for almost 20 minutes, kicking the guard in the head and stomach and leaving a trail of blood as he tried to drag him into an office.

The 44-year-old was also seen going through the victim's pockets.

After it was played at Wolverhampton Crown Court Parsons changed his plea to guilty.

The two men had initially sparred with sticks until the defendant picked up the shovel and battered Mr Mattu until he fell on the ground.

Critical

The victim, who kept trying to get to his feet, suffered serious head injuries and was in a critical condition in hospital for several days.

The assault at the Vine Street metal factory on March 19 shocked workers who discovered the injured guard when they arrived at 7pm for the night shift. He had lain there for almost six hours.

Parsons was arrested two days later in Holly Hall.

Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting, told the court that the victim now needed full-time care, could walk only with a frame and was on 27 tablets a day. He was commended by Judge James Burbidge for his 'remarkable resilience and bravery'.

Parsons, of no fixed abode, pleaded guilty to attempted murder and burglary. He was remanded in custody until July 3 when he will be sentenced.

Life stories of hospice patients to be recorded for families

Photo students focus on landmarks



Photo by Callum Calton of Dudley Priory ruins near Dudley town centre, one of the images on display

A UNIQUE partnership between a bank and the photography department at Dudley College has produced a set of stunning images of Black Country landmarks.

The collaboration between Handelsbanken Stourbridge also means that two student photographers who undertook the commission will be able to afford to join a college trip to Iceland.

Having heard about the proposed

trip, BTEC Diploma Photography students James Holyhead and Callum Calton, both 18, didn't think they would be able to raise the funds to go.

But Handelsbanken branch manager Richard Mander commissioned the students to create a set of photographs that reflected life in the Black Country, to hang in branches in Stourbridge, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Mr Mander said: "When the stu-

dents approached me I immediately understood this was a great opportunity for both parties. Supporting the local community is important to the bank as we pride ourselves on our local friendly approach."

The public can see the photographs in the branches and the portfolio will be available online at dudleycool.ac.uk and www.handelsbanken/stourbridge website

A CHARITY is helping terminally-ill people record their life stories so family and friends can hear their voices and memories for years to come.

The Hospice Biographers scheme began at Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge this week.

Patients will be interviewed by journalists trained as 'Hospice Biographers' and then given a USB memory stick with the recording on. Organisers say the audio files will give people the chance to have their stories recorded professionally and free of charge.

The charity will eventually offer the unique service to around 200 hospices across the UK, creating the largest confidential audio library of its kind ever created in Britain.

A spokesman said: "The scheme will see hospice patients record their stories for their own listening pleasure, and to be given as treasured memories to their loved ones and families. We think it's a wonderful idea and something we'd love to do for our patients, so we are hoping to find journalists who would be willing to volunteer their time and skills for one day per month, for 10 months of the year."

Actor

The Hospice Biographers campaign is backed by actor David Suchet, who is best known for his role on TV as detective Hercule Poirot. He said he wished the charity had been around to record his own mother's voice and memories before she died.

He added: "We will all lose those who are near and dear to us one day and we would love to have actually heard their stories and lives. The Hospice Biographers will now record that."

See www.thehospicebiographers.com website.

Grammar skills are on the slide

NEARLY 38 per cent of adults from the West Midlands would fail a grammar test, it has been claimed.

There and their, your and you're, who and whom, plus the correct use of the apostrophe, are the kind of grammar rules that are routinely broken.

According to a survey of 2,000 local people, translation and interpretation service LanguageLine says almost 38 per cent of those aged between 18 and 65 in the West Midlands region failed the overall grammar test overall.

But that's better than the national failure rate of almost 40 per cent of Brits.

The survey also found 75 per cent of West Midlands residents use 'text' language in a formal setting. Most people said they are now more used to seeing 'thx' written at the end of an email, rather than 'thanks'.

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Smoking faces total ban at hospital

PATIENTS and visitors using a hospital could be stopped from smoking on the grounds within weeks.

Bosses at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are looking at going smoke-free by the end of the summer.

It could see chiefs remove existing smoker shelters around the site.

The hospital currently allows smoking only in designated areas.

Dudley's Councillor Peter Miller, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "I think making the hospital smoke-free is good news."

"One of the worst things when you go there is having to walk through people smoking. I've always found it unbelievable that patients are allowed out of wards and stand pretty much outside the doors to smoke."

Stevie Benton, communications manager at Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), a campaigning public health charity, said: "Smoke-free hospitals are an important part of helping motivate people to quit smoking."

The Dudley Group Directors' blog states: "The Trust will be considering its options regarding going smoke free over the next few months. One of the options open to the trust is to make our sites entirely smoke-free and remove the existing smoking shelters. We are keen to listen to feedback."

£1m spent on scrapped scheme for school meals

SCHOOLS in Dudley borough have spent more than £1 million upgrading kitchens, in readiness for a Government scheme to offer universal free meals, which has since been scrapped.

Figures from a Freedom of Information request show that infant schools in Dudley shelled out £1,068,320 to meet the Government's universal free school meals pledge.

The School Food Plan was brought in by the Coalition Government but is set to be cancelled and replaced with a scheme offering free breakfasts for primary schoolchildren, according to the Conservative manifesto.

Critics have hit out over the decision, with Labour's Dudley North candidate Ian Austin saying it will leave local families and schools out of pocket.

U-turn

He said: "This is yet another U-turn from the Government that will cost Dudley £1m that could have been spent on educating our children."

The figures show the Government spent £437,477 in Dudley through the Universal Infant Free School Meal Capital Grant, with schools providing match funding.

When the scheme was first announced thousands of schools around the country did not have kitchen capacity to deal with the extra meals for pupils and were

By Peter Madeley

forced to upgrade. Nether-ton Church of England Primary spent £243,221, while Tenterfields Primary in Halesowen spent £160,869, and St Edmund and St John in Beechwood Road spent £131,614.

Mr Austin added: "It's bad enough that local children will miss out on free school meals, but this £1m could have helped plug the £18m drop in Government funding for Dudley schools that could result in a loss of 496 teachers by 2019."

Government figures show that the decision to scrap free school meals for infant school pupils will affect nearly 10,808 youngsters across Dudley, leaving families £450 worse off every year.

Other Dudley schools that spent on the universal free school meals programme included Lutley Primary, in Halesowen, spending £17,316.

Uber anger for wheelchair tennis ace



Wheelchair tennis star Jordanne Whiley was snubbed

WHEELCHAIR tennis champion Jordanne Whiley was left furious after an Uber taxi driver refused to pick her up – as he was apparently unwilling to have her wheelchairs and luggage in his car.

The 24-year-old champion and MBE recipient from Halesowen was beginning her journey to compete in the French Open in Paris when she was left stranded on the driveway of her London home.

Jordanne, a Paralympic medalist and Wimbledon doubles winner, was shocked by the driver's attitude and took to Twitter to complain about him. It had meant her preparations for the grand slam tournament got off to a bad start.

France

She was waiting at her home in Ickenham on Monday with her tennis wheelchair, gear and luggage, to be taken to Uxbridge train station, from where she was heading to board the Eurostar to France.

She said: "I was outside and the Uber turned up, I told him to come in the

driveway. He shook his head, gave me the finger and waved it to say no."

"Me and my boyfriend were there with the chairs and luggage and he just drove off. I had a message saying my Uber had been cancelled."

"It was a massive car, he could fit everything in easy. My manager's wife was there and would have helped me get everything in the car. He wouldn't have had to do anything."

Jordanne then ordered another Uber, which was three minutes away and did pick her up.

She begins her quest for French Open glory at Roland-Garros today (Thursday).

She was left 'annoyed' by what happened, and said: "I've read a lot of things about people not getting picked up with guide dogs and I think it's absolutely disgusting. Wheelchairs and guide dogs, they come as part of the person. I don't know what the policy or law is but discriminating shouldn't be acceptable."

No-one from Uber was available for comment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Record breaking fun run predicted

AN ANNUAL charity run is set to receive a record number of runners when it takes place on Sunday morning.

The Cobra Classic 10k & 3.5k fun run has been held at Old Halesonians Rugby Club for more than 25 years, with proceeds donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

For the first time, the Cobra Running Club will be offering chip timing and a 5k timing mat, allowing runners to monitor their performance.

To sign up online go to cobrarun.co.uk or register on the day from 8.30am. Advance entries cost £12.75 for affiliated club runners and £14.75 for non-club runners. Entries on the day will be charged £15, and £3 for the fun run.

Council offer help adapting homes

DUDLEY Council is offering help to borough residents who need to adapt their homes.

The local authority is offering help for those having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs or getting into the home.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, which is part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptation's package.

Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with practical support. Contact the service on 0300 555 0055.

Typical adaptations include handrails, ramps, stair lifts, even home extensions.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



It's time to invest in something really funny

A NEW study by an academic at Birmingham City University reveals great swathes of the population crying out for what is now known as a "traditional sitcom", ie one that is funny.

Reactions were analysed on three sitcoms, the slapstick Miranda, the American "1980s period comedy" Everybody Hates Chris, and the joke-free romantic comedy Gavin & Stacey.

She said Gavin & Stacey divided opinion: "Some viewers really enjoyed feeling invested in the characters and their relationships, others argued that the lack of jokes suggested that the writers just weren't able to make a 'real' sitcom."

Two things spring to mind. Firstly, couldn't they find three better comedies than this? How about Dad's Army? Reginald Perrin? One Foot in the Grave?

And who actually finds Gavin and Stacey funny? I saw it once, it didn't raise a single laugh. Not one. If I want to feel "invested", I will call my stockbroker.

ANOTHER glossy card from my local car dealer, telling me that as a VIP customer I will be allowed to attend a special, invitation-only event, where I will get the opportunity to, er, buy a car.

Which begs the question of what would happen if somebody turned up uninvited, with a big sack of money, offering to pay list price for the most expensive car in the showroom. Presumably a couple of burly bouncers would bundle them out, telling them gatecrashers are not welcome. Or maybe I'm becoming a cynic.

A COUPLE of weeks ago I argued that as there was no significant rail network in the Black Country, people here would find it hard to stomach paying more tax to subsidise well-heeled commuters in London. Environmentalist Tim Weller has been in touch, and raises some interesting questions which do deserve answers.

Tim calls for the reopening of the mothballed line connecting Stourbridge and Dudley to Burton-upon Trent which would effectively open-up a 75-mile link between Worcester and Derby, as well as putting the Black Country back on the national rail map.

But instead, for reasons never properly explained, the powers-that-be seem intent on using a small piece of that valuable line, from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill, for the "bus on rails" that is the Midland Metro. This would make it impossible to run a proper rail service on that stretch.

Tim wonders why the Metro, which would cost £30 million per km to install, is favoured over restoring the old rail service, which would cost less than £6 million per km. Maybe somebody would like to challenge this but it seems to me that the Black Country would benefit far more from a fast rail service linking it to the rest of the country than a slow tram running for just a few miles.

Blue Peter legend's passing among the politics



RIP John Noakes, a proper children's TV daredevil, seen with his beloved Shep



Dianne Abbott, who says she has moved on from her previous stance on Northern Ireland



The ginormously talented TV historian Lucy Worsley, not scirting the skeduled issue

Walk away advice is PC gone mad

SOME days before the NHS computer crash and BA's micro-chip mix-up, my old PC's screen suddenly filled with dire warnings, klaxon sounds and an American voice telling me to ring this number immediately. I hadn't a clue what was going on, so I did what I always do in times of PC crisis. I switched it off and went for a long walk.

WHEN I started the computer up again, all the warnings had vanished. I assume it was some low-grade attempt either to extract information, demand a ransom fee or both. Just to be safe, I downloaded all my files on to a memory stick. It took ages but gives me a great sense of security.

I COMMENTED on Lucy Worsley pronouncing "schedule" as "skedule" in her latest historical show, about Jane Austen. It gets worse. One TV reviewer reported that Worsley twice used the word "ginormous." Miss Austen would probably shudder and reach for the smelling salts.

IF you are of a certain age, you will probably remember John Noakes, who died this week, as the daft-as-a-brush Blue Peter presenter, paddling in the excrement of that incontinent baby elephant, or making yet another pointless Christmas present from a wire coathanger and a Fairy Liquid bottle. Think again. Have a look at his 1970s ascent of Nelson's Column on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4Y-FCJETmwl>) in the days before health and safety. With not even a hard helmet or a safety rope, Noakes climbs the column on a series of ladders, including one horrific, gravity-defying overhang. One slip and he would have been dead. Yet he shows not a trace of fear, not a hint of regret. I'm not sure whether he was brave or foolish but what a great performer he was.

A SECOND reader takes up the cudgels

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



against the term "lone wolf" to describe a terrorist, a word which denigrates the noble wolf. While we're at it, he asks for the derogatory term "cowboy" to be banned. He knows his stuff, having worked with cowboys in the Rockies. They were, he says, "particularly hard working, skilled and professional people."

THE official election leaflet has just arrived from our local Labour candidate. It contains not a single mention of Jeremy Corbyn.

LOTS of visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show went home clutching brochures for "natural swimming ponds." This is the cool, green alternative to a chlorine-drenched swimming pool in your back garden. For between £60,000 and £90,000 the contractors will dig a hole, waterproof it and give you a place where you can swim among the newts, frogs and dragonflies, and sneer at your less nature-minded neighbours. I have a pal who made himself a swimming pond long before they became fashionable. It involved a weekend with a JCB and cost a lot less than sixty grand. His wife swims in it almost every day of the year and he has recently dragged an old dinghy onto it where one can sit at sunset and, while wobbling gently, put the world to rights with a G&T and a frog chorus. Bliss.

DIANE Abbott says she may once have hoped for a British defeat by the IRA, but has changed her mind, just as she has changed her hairstyle. So that's all right, then. Let's hope she doesn't suddenly go for a cut and blow-dry and emerge

from the salon cheerleading some other bunch of murdering psychopaths.

ABBOTT tries to distance herself from her pro-IRA days by repeating that it was 34 years ago. That makes it worse. For she was praying for the Brits to lose the struggle in Ulster at a time when the IRA were committing atrocities on the British mainland such as the Hyde Park bombings (11 soldiers and seven horses killed) and the Harrods bombing

(three police and three civilians killed, 90 injured). Her views back then were shared by only a tiny, rabid number of extremists. The passing of time is utterly irrelevant and her favourite phrase "moving on" does not wash.

A READER shares my view on the unfair funding of Alzheimer's treatment, with some patients subsidised by the state and others driven into penury by care-home fees. He suggests we learn a lesson from old lags. If you seem to be developing dementia, commit a serious crime. That way, you get 24/7 care in a warm, dry, comfortable prison with three meals a day, constant medical attention and no worries about security. And it doesn't cost you a penny.

AUF wiedersehen, pets. We have just bade a fond farewell to our German friends, over here for a few days for the first time in five years. Nothing seemed to have changed, apart from the arrival of their son, now 22 months. Turns out entertaining a German Terrible Two is much the same as an English Terrible Two. Fill a small watering can mit Wasser and watch them find endless amusement in watering the plants, the lawn, the grown-ups, the cat and anything else. Mehr is a most useful German word. It means more, as in "mehr Wasser," "mehr Trampolin" and "mehr Katze." If anything makes a two-year-old shriek with laughter, you know he'll want mehr.

TALKING POINT

Sat navs will send us round the bend

SO, the sat nav's on, we've got a half a pack of cigarettes, it's dark and we're wearing sunglasses... Hit it!

But hold on a minute Elwood - why are we going down this single carriageway track?

Yes, not exactly going according to plan with the Blues Brothers' movie script, as they start on their journey across America - in the film which surely is the antithesis of 'satnavism'.

And yet, from December, UK learner drivers will be expected to ditch their map and sign reading skills - as knowing how to use the computerised directions-giver will become part of the actual driving test.

Is this not surely a recipe for disaster? The daily calamities of the feckless lorry driver whose HGV gets stuck under a bridge because they followed that annoying female voice to their doom, are all too common.

And, how many times do we see road signs proclaiming: Do NOT follow sat nav directions.

Well, if that is the case, what is the blooming point of them at all?

Admittedly, for your actual door-to-door travel, without the hassle of having to worry whether you have missed a turn or not, on one-off journeys, they have some worth. But complete reliance?

And as the development of the devices get more all-singing, all dancing, we could be faced with a future where we don't even view the road ahead at all, well apart from the possible introduction of driverless cars themselves.

I foresee a superhacker getting hold of the software/hardware (don't ask a dunce like me to differentiate!) which controls driverless cars of the future, and a convoy of thousands screaming down the M5 towards the cliffs of Lands End and the watery grave of the Atlantic.

How many times as well, does that soulless voice with BBcquesque pronunciation get it completely wrong, either with the road name itself, or more frequently, with the number of junctions at a traffic island? Sometimes, slip roads are counted and that only adds to the confusion.

Once I ended up, in search of a hotel in Liverpool, going round a roundabout, obviously looking completely like a tourist with impatient scallies all around me, and took the wrong turn-off, only to end up on a lovely sight-seeing tour of the Wallasey Tunnel.

To add insult to injury, we then had to pay a toll to come all the way back again.

However, occasionally, only very occasionally mind, the sat nav mistress does actually provide revelational miles-chopping routes across lovely country lanes.

Then of course, being the perfect driver who scoffs at reliance on anything but my own excellent internal atlas, it takes twice as long to get back home. And I couldn't even blame the tractors.

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Honour Darby's pioneer ancestor too

GOOD to see local Woodsetton lad Abraham Darby I could be commemorated with a 'statue' near his place of birth (presumably Wren's Nest).

Darby deserves recognition as one of the industrial pioneers of the early 18th century, for successfully smelting iron with coal, and for founding the Coalbrookdale company, headed by a dynasty of ironmasters who bore the same name (albeit in Shropshire).

I think it would be good also, however, if the opportunity could be taken to include a reference to Darby's family connections to that earlier local indus-

trial pioneer, Dud Dudley (c1599-1684) who was Darby's great uncle on his paternal grandmother's side of the family, and who had begun smelting iron with coal right here in Dudley and the surrounding vicinity over 80 years beforehand in 1620.

Research over the last few years indicates that Darby may have worked out his iron smelting methods, at least in part, from 'inside knowledge' that was most likely passed down through the family.

This came in the form of surface coal which had been naturally coked by post

carboniferous activity. This naturally coked coal would have been suitable for smelting iron without the need for significant modification of the equipment or processes prevalent at the time.

This has now been backed up by geological evidence around Barrow Hill, Pensnett, and it is hoped can be further backed up by archaeological evidence from the site of Dudley's purpose-built furnace off the Himley Road at Askew Bridge, at some point.

CARL HIGGS
Stourbridge

France in solidarity with the UK

I HAVE just arrived back from four days in France.

Manchester was everywhere, on TV, radio, in newspapers and in café conversations.

I visited Ascension Day Holiday fetes in villages around Maubeuge. Local town halls were flying British and French flags together over the entrances.

The massive memorial arch to the Missing of The Somme, at Thiepval, was flying the French and British flags at half mast, side by side.

It was heart-warming to find that the solidarity between the ordinary people of France and Britain, which the hard-line separatists appear to consider totally unimportant and expendable, remains strong and that they still hope that we may be allowed to have second thoughts.

One young Frenchman in a bar said to me 'Don't give up hope'.

ROBERT PERRY
Stourbridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
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Concern over store using 'Parking Eye'

ASDA'S planned parking restrictions using number plate recognition cameras at their new store in Sedgley will be a troublesome and unwanted nuisance to large numbers of people.

The £70 parking charge for overstaying the two hour limit means elderly and vulnerable people will fall foul of the limit and be pursued by 'Parking Eye' - Asda's enforcement company. The number plate recognition system is fundamentally unjust - it provides no proof of arrival and departure times to the parker and Parking Eye acts as witness, judge and debt collector. The argument is that 'everyone has similar restrictions' ignores the high number of community organisations used by Sedgley's vulnerable people that border the Sedgley car park.

MARTIN JONES
Sedgley

Passes not checked at train station

HUNDREDS of people must, like my wife and I, travel on trains within the West Midlands, as our passes allow us to.

When we travel by bus, our passes are read by a meter situated by the bus driver. When we travel by the Metro tram, again our details are recorded on a meter held by the guard.

Yet when we travel by train, the guards just look at the passes and do not record the details.

Sometimes our passes are read by a machine as we enter a station, but other times we are able to just walk through - as we did at Birmingham Moor Street station.

Is it any wonder that the train companies do not make so much profit as they could? Very often there is no guard on the trains anyway. If there is one, couldn't they be equipped with machines like the Metro guards are?

My mind is baffled.
PETER COLE
Kingswinford

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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL

Pub food bosses fined after 20 diners made ill by carvery

PUB food bosses have been slapped with a court bill totaling almost £4,000 after a carvery left 20 customers with food poisoning.

A 94-year-old woman and several children were among those ill after eating a carvery at Park Lane Tavern in Park Lane, Cradley.

The food operator at the pub, IP Carvery, made a formal public apology during a hearing at Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court, which heard that all the affected customers had eaten in a two-hour slot at the pub.

Witness plea after man is attacked

WEST Mercia Police are appealing for witnesses after a man was assaulted by four men at a pub late on a Friday night.

The man had to be hospitalised after suffering facial injuries during the incident.

Police are now calling for any witnesses to come forward following the incident at The Queens Head pub on Sugarbrook Lane in Bromsgrove. It happened between the hours of 11pm on May 4 and 12.30am on May 5.

Police said it was reported that a man was assaulted following an altercation with one of the group.

The victim was taken to the Alexandra Hospital, where he was treated for facial fractures.

Investigating police officers urged any potential witnesses who may have information on the assault to come forward.

They are asked to call police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

The court was told how all 20 customers had suffered Clostridium Perfringens food poisoning, - a bug associated with the inadequate cooling of meat. Two leftover samples of turkey were found to be contaminated with the bacteria, following the carvery on April 2 last year.

IP Carvery Ltd told the court that the company now employ a food safety expert, who regularly inspects the company's premises and ensures that workers have been retrained.

Compensation

The firm pleaded guilty in court to an offence of placing unsafe food on the market in a case brought by Dudley Council.

The company was fined £1,350 and ordered to pay costs of £2,483.55 to Dudley Council, plus a victim surcharge of £120.

It is understood that the company's insurers have also received compensation claims on behalf of affected customers.

Nick Powell, head of environmental health at the council, said: "Serious food safety errors were made in this case, which put the health of customers at risk and caused illness in 20 people, who fortunately recovered. It could have been far worse as young children and the elderly are often more severely affected by food poisoning."

Are you ready to Romstock and roll?



Romstock headliners, from left, Big Jim Merris, Jessikea Svadedreamz, Felicity Cox and Paul Shakespeare

THE sixth annual Romstock music festival takes place this Saturday in the village of Romsley, near Halesowen.

Bands taking part include Big Jim and the Mumbo Shakers, featuring Jim Merris from the Red Lemon Electric Blues Band, plus ska band Rudi and the Revolvers, Soul Mania, Strictly Abba, Izzy the Push, guitarist Dan Greenaway, violinist Julienne Bourne, rock band Red Tails and an Elvis tribute.

One of the organisers, Mark Moran,

said the event, this year being held on the playing fields at St Kenelms Road, had grown every year.

"The first year we had a few bands playing in a gazebo and about 200 people turned up," he said. "Last year the audience was closer to 2,000."

Event organiser David Powell added, "We are also to highlight new talent at Romstock and this year 16-year-old Felicity Cox from Hagley is performing. Felicity has a great future ahead of her and you can say that you saw her first at Romstock!"

The public can bring their own food and drink and there are also bars and food stalls at the event, plus four large marquees for shelter if it rains.

Tickets are available in advance from the Co Op store in Romsley or on line by visiting the Romstock Facebook site.

Early bird prices are £10 per adult with a family ticket £20. Prices on the day are £15 per adult and £3 for children. The music starts at noon.

All money raised goes to projects in the village.

TB concern for patients from hospital

DOZENS of patients have been contacted over fears they could have contracted tuberculosis at Russells Hall Hospital.

A patient was diagnosed as having the highly contagious disease after spending time on a surgical ward. Then 36 people were contacted by Russells Hall so they can be checked.

Chief executive of the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, Diane Wake said: "A patient contracted Tuberculosis (TB) prior to their admission to hospital. It was not contracted in the hospital. The vast majority of people contract TB in the community."

"TB is treatable and can lead to a full recovery. The patient had a previous admission to hospital for an unrelated medical complaint. The patient was diagnosed with the disease on a subsequent hospital admission. As soon as the diagnosis was suspected, the patient was treated in line with national policies and procedures."

"In line with national guidance, set out by Public Health England, we routinely get in touch with the people a patient has come into contact with. The trust closely monitors infections acquired in hospital; no further cases of TB have been identified in the hospital at this stage."

A hospital board report told how it related to an incident in April and 36 patients had been sent letters.

Mode bring Global Spirit to city venue

ELECTRONIC icons Depeche Mode will perform in Birmingham in November and tickets go on sale tomorrow morning (Friday). The band, formed in Basildon in 1980, features Dave Gahan, Martin Gore and Andy Fletcher. Hits include Personal Jesus, People Are People and Enjoy The Silence. They will be at the Barclaycard Arena as part of their Global Spirit tour on November 19. See www.live.nation.co.uk website.

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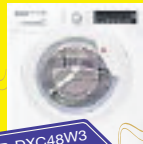


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Hundreds attend funeral to pay tribute to DJ

HUNDREDS of people turned out to say a final farewell to a DJ who died aged just 31.

Mourners packed out St James Church in Wollaston, Stourbridge, for the funeral of Adam Tombs.

Around 500 people attended the service in honour of Mr Tombs, who was also known as DJ Toomz and was a familiar face at venues across Stourbridge.

Family and friends were left devastated when Mr Tombs died unexpectedly in his sleep in April.

Friends brought flowers arranged to look like a set of DJ decks, while one of Mr Tombs' favourite drum and bass tracks, New Era by Andy C, rang out as the service came to a close.

A star with the word 'Daddy' was also laid down for five-year-old Leyla, the daughter of Mr Tombs' partner who he helped raise.

Mr Tombs, of Cathcart Road, Stourbridge, would promote High Voltage, a drum and bass night at venues including The Picture House in Hagley Road, Moochers in New Road and Fitness Factory in Bradley Road.

Mr Tombs had also worked at the family business Castle Road Motors, in Kidderminster.

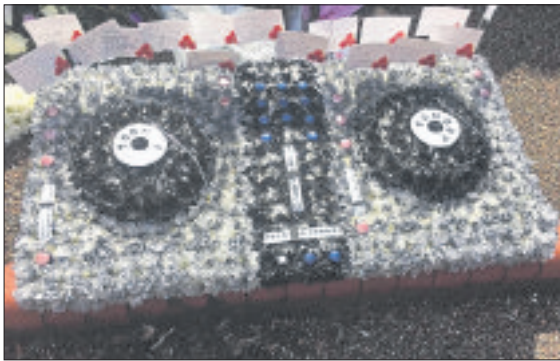
His mother Christine Goodall, 56, said: "It was fabulous, I've never been to a funeral like it. It was very emotional but to think that many people turned out for your son is just amazing. It was a fabulous outpouring of love."

"He was only meant to be on this Earth for a short length of time but to have all these people care for him is comforting."

Sister-in-law Catherine Sheppard, said: "A lot of people said, in the weirdest way, it was the best funeral they had ever been to. The funeral was sad but also really uplifting. At the there was a massive applause. He would bring a lot of happiness. He was the life and soul of the party."



Adam Tombs – AKA DJ Toomz – was popular on the Black Country's club scene



A floral tribute from friends in the shape of a DJ's twin record deck

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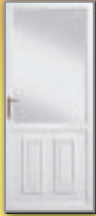
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Job loss blow as 2 Sisters poultry plant closes down

BUSINESS and community leaders have expressed their disappointment at the news that dozens of jobs are at risk following the announcement that one of the 2 Sisters Food Group's plants is to close.

The firm's poultry plant in Smethwick employs 630 people, of which 250 have taken voluntary redundancy and 290 have been redeployed. The remaining 90 workers are waiting to hear their fate.

Flats plan for £1.4m office block

A HIGH street office block is on track to be converted into new homes after being sold for £1.45 million.

The sale deal for Parham House, in West Bromwich, was sealed by Black Country commercial property agents Bond Wolfe. It is earmarked for conversion into nearly 50 apartments.

The freehold of the office and retail mixed use property has been sold with outline planning permission for conversion to residential use to an unnamed developer.

It was offered at Allsops' London auction on May 25 with Bond Wolfe as joint auctioneers.

James Mattin, Bond Wolfe's managing director, said: "The property was sold on behalf of London-based owners to a property developer. The developer will now seek to implement the 47 unit scheme."

Parham House is at 404-430 High Street. The five-storey building includes three shop units and 30,444 sq ft of office space.

The group owns a number of food brands including Goodfella's Pizza and Fox's. It employs around 1,500 people at plants in West Bromwich and Wolverhampton as well as Smethwick.

Ward councillor Preet Gill said: "It's a big concern, especially with job losses and what could happen with the future of the site."

"It's a loss because we're always trying to attract big investment. The council will support any of those worried or concerned about what's happened to them and support them with looking for new work."

Deficit

Ninder Johal, Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership board member, said: "This is clearly disappointing news. I'm hoping that the 90 people who could be made redundant will be able to find jobs within the 2 Sisters Group or with other firms."

"There's a skill deficit in the region. There's one thing we can be certain of, in this ever-changing climate with the advent of artificial intelligence and the increasing use of robots, manufacturing will witness further changes."

A 2 Sisters spokesman said: "It's with much regret that we have had to close one of the original 2 Sisters sites. We have done our very best to find as many alternative roles as possible for colleagues."

Campaign to help James walk on his own



James with his mom Cheryl Hughes, who is hoping to raise £50,000 for an op

FUNDRAISING is taking place to support an appeal to help a boy from Rowley Regis walk again.

Seven-year-old James Downing has Cerebral Palsy Spastic Diplegia, which means the muscles in his legs are too tight, making it hard for him to put his feet flat on the floor to walk.

His family need to raise the money to pay for a Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) operation and after care to enable him to walk unaided.

Fundraiser Sarah Belton explained how she got involved with the charity after James, and his twin brother Thomas, were in her daughter's class at school.

She said: "It all started last year when James' mom wanted to start fundraising and my little girl is in his class at school, so I wanted to get involved. Me and another mom, Liz Edwards, decided to team up."

"James is a lovely lad. He finds it difficult to walk and has a walker at school and is starting to notice now that he cannot do things like other kids. We want to give him a better quality of life."

James lives in Rowley Regis with his mom and dad Cheryl and Wayne and his two brothers Thomas and Jack.

Cheryl said: "The operation SDR is currently unavailable on the NHS. This operation will give our son James a better quality of life in the future."

For more information on James' Dreams visit: www.just4children.org/children-helped-2016/jamess-dream website.

Extra big tip due for brave staff

A UNIVERSITY of Birmingham graduate caught up in the London Bridge terror attack returned to the scene the next morning to pay his restaurant bill.

Richard Angell, 33, who graduated from 2005 and was chairman of the university's Labour society, was at Arabica Bar and Kitchen in Borough Market when the terrorists struck on Saturday.

He described seeing scenes of panic as diners were barricaded inside the restaurant, before being led away from the scene by police.

"The waiter jammed his foot in the door to make sure it stayed closed, people were turning over tables and chairs to take cover," he said.

"I looked up and there was this guy throwing an entire table at somebody. This heroic guy who saw what was happening and started bombarding these cowardly people with anything he could get his hands on."

"A guy walked from the restaurant next door holding his neck or chest, covered in blood. I was looking after a pregnant woman, she was my priority."

Defiant Mr Angell, who is the director of the Progress think-tank, said he would not be cowed by the terrorists.

He returned but found the restaurant closed and said he was determined to pay the bill and tip the staff.

Research earns prize for geographer Sarah

A FORMER Bishop Milner pupil has won an award from the Royal Geographical Society.

Dr Sarah Mills, senior lecturer in human geography at Loughborough University, is this year's recipient of the Royal Geographical Society (with Institute of British Geographers) Gill Memorial Award.

Her research explores the geographies of youth citizenship, informal education and volunteering.

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Society raises a toast to its 50 bostin' years

THE Black Country Society took a year to hit 100 members – now 50 years later that has grown to a bostin' 1,600. And the group marked the milestone with a celebration at Himley Hall.

Black Country History Society chairman James Morgan was joined by president Keith Hodgkins, deputy mayor of Sandwell Susan Eaves, Mayor of Dudley Dave Tyler, Mayor of Wolverhampton Phil Page and Walsall Mayor Marco Longhi.

It followed a blue plaque being unveiled in March at the Noah's Ark pub in Wood Street, the location 50 years ago on March 1 of the first meeting of the society.

The Black Country Society was founded in 1967 by the late Dr John Fletcher and John Brimble, who felt the Black Country did not receive its fair share of recognition for its major contribution to the industrial development of Britain and the world.

The group grew out of the Dudley Canal Tunnel Preservation Society, which successfully campaigned to save Dudley Canal Tunnel. The society's stated aim was 'to foster interest in the past, present and future of the Black Country'.

In 1968 calls were made for the establishment of a industrial museum, and since the creation of the Black Country Living Museum, the society has continued to support it. The society also publishes a quarterly magazine called The Blackcountryman.

Chairman James Morgan said: "It was appropriate the celebration should take place at Himley Hall, the home of the Earl of Dudley who was the most influential figure in the area when the Black Country was undergoing its rapid growth."



Civic leaders with Black Country Society Chairman James Morgan, centre right, and president Keith Hodgkins

Teenager is in court after store evacuated

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy charged with making an explosive after armed police evacuated a Sainsbury's supermarket has appeared before magistrates.

Hundreds of people were evacuated from the store in Blackheath on Saturday as the drama unfolded.

Armed officers swarmed on the supermarket as customers were told to leave their shopping and get out at around 12.10pm.

An alarm rang out while shoppers said they heard a loud bang coming from the toilets as panicked customers tried to get out as fast as they could. No members of the public were hurt during the incident.

The boy, who cannot be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm his name at Wolverhampton Magistrates Court last week.

He was charged earlier this week with possession of a bladed article and two further charges of making an explosive substance and maliciously causing an explosive substance to endanger life.

He was remanded in custody to appear before the court again on June 21.

Woman was speared by glass shard in the heart

A DOMESTIC dispute nearly ended tragedy when a woman was speared by a shard of glass, a judge was told.

The sliver tore through her chest into the muscle of her heart after she was pushed by her boyfriend into a large cabinet that smashed, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

She was rushed to hospital for emergency surgery and has since made a good recovery.

The court heard that Micah Taylor and the victim had a volatile relationship, which had already resulted in each of them appearing in court for other offences.

The argument that resulted in her injury erupted at her home in Halesowen where the 28-year-old defendant was also living on August 30. At least one child was also at the address.

By John Scott

and threatened to burn her face when the couple clashed in June 2013. She had also smashed windows in his car on a separate occasion, it was said.

Miss Jabeen Akhtar, defending, said: "They seem to bring out the worst in each other but when he pushed her he was not thinking where she was likely to land. It happened in the heat of the moment.

"As soon as he realised she was injured he immediately went to help and pulled out a large piece of glass from her chest. He is extremely remorseful for the injuries she suffered."

Taylor, who is no longer living at the Halesowen address, was convicted of wounding the woman after a trial. He was jailed for two years by Judge Michael Challinor, who told him: "It was a deliberate act when you pushed her forcefully into the display cabinet. It was very dangerous. It was a life-threatening injury. This was the conclusion of your oppressive and controlling behaviour."

Wound

The victim was sent crashing into the corner cabinet by Taylor, who then went to her assistance and removed a large piece of glass from the wound as soon as he realised the seriousness of the situation.

He stayed with his partner until police and paramedics arrived, the court was told.

Mr Neil Ahuja, prosecuting, declared: "He had not intended to cause serious harm but it happened in her home in the presence of a very young child."

Taylor had previously landed himself in court after assaulting the woman. He had also set fire to her clothes with a blow torch

Young girl is left with a broken leg

A 10-YEAR-OLD girl suffered a broken leg after being hit by a car in Brierley Hill last week.

The girl was taken to hospital by ambulance after being struck in an accident on The Wickets at around 4.35pm on Tuesday, May 30.

An ambulance and senior paramedics were called to the scene to treat the injured schoolgirl in the street, after passers-by gathered to see if they could help.

West Midlands Ambulance spokesman, Murray McGregor, said: "The girl had suffered a badly broken right leg in the collision.

"After treatment at the scene, she was taken to Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley for further treatment."

Police are eager to learn more about the incident and any witnesses to the crash are asked to get in touch with police on 101.

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New DY5 business district could bring 1,400 extra jobs

ALMOST 1,400 jobs will be created over five years as part of an enterprise zone in Brierley Hill and Pensnett.

Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone, known as DY5, was established in Brierley Hill on April 1. The zone covers 170 acres of land at Blackbrook Valley industrial estate and Pensnett, as well as office space on The Waterfront, near the Merry Hill shopping centre.

It was stated at the time of its launch that the scheme would see 7,000 jobs created over 25 years. The latest predictions, from Black Country Consortium chief executive Sarah Middleton, say that 1,391 jobs will come to the zone in the first five years and 71 businesses will move to the site.

The Government-supported initiative attracts firms by offering up to £55,000 per year business rate discount over five years. Other benefits include the forthcoming extension of the Metro tram line to Brierley Hill by 2023.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director, said: "With all of the benefits that DY5 brings, as well as the significant amount of regeneration taking place and infrastructure investment, there has never been a better time to relocate your expanding business to DY5 and the borough of Dudley."

The scheme is part of the Black Country Enterprise Zone, led by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership in partnership with the West Midlands Combined Authority. Other zones include Darlaston and Wolverhampton North, creating 4,000 jobs in aerospace, automotive and engineering sectors.

Prior to the Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone, there was a Dudley Business Investment Zone at The Waterfront. But that scheme, which lasted two years, saw only one firm sign up for the reduced business rate deal.

Care home facilities win award

A CARE home has won an award for 'best for clinical facilities' in a national scheme.

Broadway Halls Care Home in Dudley is celebrating winning the prize.

The home is run by brighterkind and is one of more than 50 of their homes providing specialist nursing care, which share the recognition for their achievement.

Fiona Millington, director of nursing for brighterkind, said: "We have invested in supporting our registered nurses and senior care staff in our nursing homes with additional clinical training to develop their skills and understanding of the therapeutic care of older people."

"We have also invested in an ongoing programme to enhance the environment and facilities in our homes."

"At Broadway Halls we have nurses on duty 24 hours a day."

"The judges commented on our focus on developing a positive team culture."

Family share Maisie's 105th birthday joy



105-year-old Maisie Patstone with her congratulations from the Queen

IT'S been quite an eventful 105 years for Maisie Patstone.

She may have been born just weeks after the Titanic sunk but it's all been happy sailing – celebrating her 105th birthday surrounded by family members, cake, flowers and an array of cards.

Maisie celebrated her birthday at Beechcroft Residential Home in Oldbury. "We've all had a wonderful day," smiled son Neville Patstone, aged 79.

Maisie was joined by her two sons, Neville and Dennis, aged 77, her two daughter-in-laws, Sue and Jean and her niece Sheila Reith.

She also has four grandchildren, Neil, Ian, Richard and Rachel, and six great-grandchildren.

Born in Katherine Road, Smethwick, on May 30, 1912, she was the youngest of three sisters and went to the Abbey Road School before working for tobacco firm at Singleton and Coles in Birmingham.

Caravan

Maisie married Arthur Patstone in April 1934 at Harborne Parish Church. Five years later, he went off to war and served in Egypt and Italy.

During their married life, they spent most weekends in a caravan with the family and had a key role in the Midland Caravan Club.

Neville said: "Maisie used to love knitting, sewing and gardening when she lived on her own."

Dennis added: "Since being at Beechcroft they have taken marvellous care of her."

Family hold on to hope for Natalie

THE family of a young mother who has been missing for 14 years said they 'have never given up hope' – as police started exhuming graves in the hunt for her body.

Natalie Putt left her home in Gornal in 2003 to go to the shops but has not been seen since. She left behind her 11-week-old son, Rhys.

Officers revealed on Tuesday they are now treating the disappearance of the 17-year-old as a murder inquiry.

After being tipped off with 'credible' new information, police moved onto a graveyard just yards from Natalie's family home in Thornleigh.

They said 'at least two people' know why police had chosen that particular cemetery. Specialist forensics teams remained at the scene yesterday (Wednesday), with an investigating officer confirming four graves at Ruiton Cemetery are part of the probe. Two forensic tents have been set up, with police dogs also scouring the small graveyard site.

The search came just four days after Natalie's image was beamed to millions of viewers on Britain's Got Talent as part of the Missing People Choir performance.

Her half-sister Rebecca Coggins said: "I just feel completely numb. Absolutely heartbroken. There is always hope until there is no hope. We have to hold on to any hope we have."

Former social club is to go under hammer

A LANDMARK Black Country club that has stood empty for more than a year is set to go up for auction with an asking price of more than £150,000.

Tipton Conservative & Unionist Club on Union Street shut its doors in January last year. But since being put up for sale in August it has remained on the market.

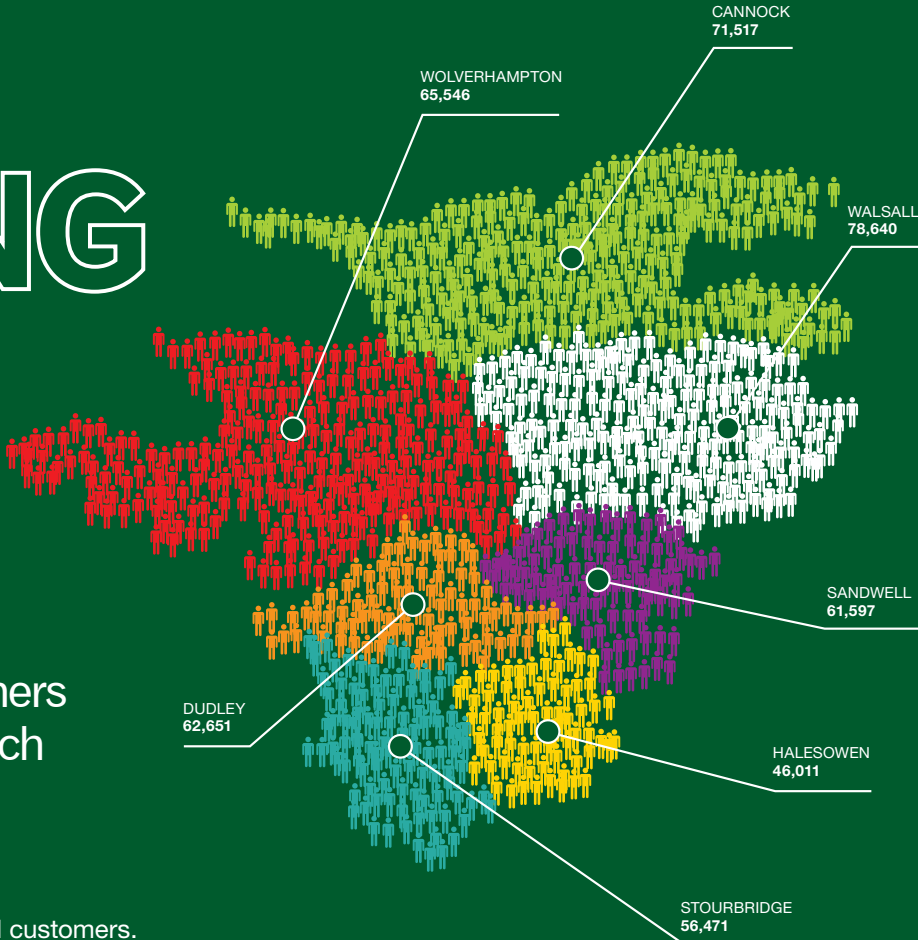
It will now go up for auction with John Pye Auctions, based in Nottingham, on June 28.

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£19.8m loss at building society

THE loss of a court case has punched a hole in the annual figures of West Bromwich Building Society, driving it to a £19.8 million loss.

It comes despite strong home loan figures from the Black Country's biggest building society, which saw gross residential mortgage lending rise to £712m for 12 months to the end of March. Up from £673m a year ago, it's the biggest lending figure for the society since the financial crash of 2008.

But the West Brom had to fork out £27.5m after the Court of Appeal said it should not have doubled the interest it charged for some 6,700 buy-to-let landlords.

Beyond the court case, the West Brom said its underlying pre-tax profit was up 60 per cent on last year, to £7.7m.

Chief executive Jonathan Westhoff said: "Whilst the reported loss for the year is disappointing, we can draw considerable confidence from our strong underlying performance."

Fiona brings antique show to museum



BBC TV Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce

IT'S time to dust off the treasures as BBC One's Antiques Roadshow heads to a Dudley museum later this month.

Leading antiques and fine arts specialists will be on hand at the Black Country Living Museum to offer free advice and valuations to visitors. Museum goers are invited to bring along their family heirlooms, household treasures and car-boot bargains for inspection by the experts on June 21 at the Tipton Road attraction.

Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce said: "The best part of working on Antiques Roadshow is that we never know who or what is going to turn up on the day. The visitors, the objects they bring, their stories and the location all combine to make a fabulous experience that we aim to capture for the viewers. If you are a fan of Antiques Roadshow, curious to see behind the scenes, or just fancy a day out, I would urge you to come along."

It's open from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Entry to the show is free. Visitors with an unusual item, collection or story can let the team know in advance via the Share Your Story link on www.bbc.co.uk/antiquesroadshow

Police respond to 17 drone call-outs

WEST Midlands Police were called to 17 drone-related incidents in the first three months of this year.

The force, however, made no arrests in connection with the call-outs. Incidents ranged from anti-social behaviour to road disruption and public safety.

In most cases, police took no further action. In others, officers were unable to trace the owner or operator of the drone.

Under rules from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), people cannot use drones in areas the Air Navigation Order defines as congested.

The order states congested is 'any area of a city, town or settlement which is substantially used for residential, industrial, commercial or recreational purposes'.

Permission is needed from the CAA to fly a drone in such areas. There has been concern after drones have also been used to make drops over prison walls.

Prison for speeding driver who left friends seriously injured

A DRIVER, who ruined the lives of three friends after ignoring their pleas to slow down, has been sent to jail for five years.

Timothy Pascall, of Netherton, was doing 83mph in a 30 limit zone on the wrong side of the road in a stolen car moments before disaster struck, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

The 21-year-old's girlfriend, front seat passenger Lauren Lunn, feared for her life as the black Corsa hurtled towards a hump back bridge in Halesowen Road, Netherton at 5am on March 19.

She pulled at the steering wheel in a bid to get the vehicle back on track but it was snatched back by Pascall who then lost control, said Mr David Bennett, prosecuting.

The Corsa – on false plates after being stolen from Leamington a week earlier – careered across the road so fast it snapped a telegraph pole. Ryan Plimmer, a friend of the driver, was left close to death while Miss Lunn and fellow passenger Courtney Miller were seriously hurt in the crash.

Pascall, on bail for an unrelated matter and breaking a curfew, escaped uninjured from the crash that he had caused. He lied to police saying the

driver had 'done a runner' prompting a helicopter hunt for the non-existent fifth occupant of the Corsa. Miss Lunn refused to support his lies.

Mr Plimmer, 21, suffered a detached aorta, a bleed on the brain, torn liver, burst bladder and broken bones. He has undergone six operations and faces up to two years more treatment. The other two passengers, both 18, also suffered life-changing injuries.

Pascall, of Ashfield Crescent, pleaded guilty to three charges of causing serious injury by dangerous driving, aggravated vehicle taking and attempting to pervert the course of justice.



Locked up – Timothy Pascall

Soul Survivors celebrate Robin

THE Soul Survivors with Mel Day will play at a special 25th anniversary show celebrating the Robin venue in Brierley Hill.

The soul band played at the venue when it first opened in 1992 and will play at the Robin 2 in Bilston next month. The original Robin was demolished to make way for new car parks at the Merry Hill shopping centre.

Ex-staff members of the Robin in Brierley Hill, who worked there between 1992 and 2003, are welcome to attend for free.

Soul Survivors will play at the Mount Pleasant venue on July 14. Tickets are pegged at the 1992 price of £5 and can be bought on 01902 401211 or online at therobin.co.uk.

Soul Survivors have long been favourites on the local music scene with covers of classic soul hits from the 60s and 70s.

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Express & Star

Creepy, kooky and lots of fun

REVIEW

by Leon Burakowski

The Addams Family, Birmingham Hippodrome
THEY'RE creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky, and the Addams make a highly enjoyable transition from comic strip, TV and film to the stage.

In *Elice*, Lipka and Brickman's Broadway comedy musical, the family faces division when teenaged pigtailed nihilist Wednesday falls in love with an all-American boy. She demands 'one normal night' when he and his parents, the Beinekes, visit the Addams' haunted mansion in New York's Central Park.

Even the family's ghostly ancestors are summoned to take part, and they have handily crept out of the crypt to supply the show with a chorus of Thriller-style singers and dancers.

I was surprised the script hadn't been updated with more than one Trump gag, and I don't mean Grandma Addams' flatulence. The clan were invented by New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams to subvert the cliché of the wholesome American family.

Deadpan

Les Dennis is a revelation in the role of the ghoulish Uncle Fester, bringing poignancy to the moon-struck freak who narrates the show. Floating onto stage in a cloud of dry ice, Samantha Womack is deadpan and dead gorgeous as the macabre matriarch Morticia. She even reveals that 'Fish has a pair of legs in a terrific tango scene.'

Cameron Blakely is a comic treat as Gomez Addams. His version of the Hispanic patriarch with a fondness for



The Addams Family, and potential in-laws Picture by Matt Martin

swordplay is more manic than in the film. He also has a fine singing voice.

As Wednesday, the charismatic Carrie Hope Fletcher demonstrates her powerful vocals. Her performance confirms this actress and social media star is well on the way to being one of Britain's brightest West End stars.

Staffordshire-born Charlotte Page gives her operatic vocals full rein as the repressed Alice Beineke, after a shot of Grandma's witchy brew 'rips the lid off her id'. Dickon Gough's lugubrious Lurch delivers some of the

biggest laughs and a musical surprise. The show loses momentum in the second act and gets schmaltzy with the inevitable life lesson, but by then the audience is sold on the story of this bizarre gothic household. The songs are delivered with plenty of Broadway chutzpah and the dark humour features lots of snappy one-liners.

Addams fans will not be disappointed. The show continues to Saturday at the Hippodrome and returns to the region to run at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from October 17 to 21.

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It's animal magic as zoo bags top awards

IT is one of the Black Country's favourite attractions – visited by tens of thousands of people every year.

Dudley Zoo has now been honoured at a ceremony celebrating the best of British and Irish zoos and aquariums.

The attraction netted a trio of gongs at the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIZA) awards, which celebrate outstanding achievements in the zoological world.

The Castle Hill attraction's £20,000 'baboons on the bank' exhibit, which provides a natural hillside home for the zoo's breeding group of gelada baboons, was awarded a silver award at the ceremony.

Zoo photographer Jason Skarratt was awarded two runner-up prizes in the photography competition.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "We are delighted to have been awarded three accolades by British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums, especially in our 80th anniversary year."

Proud

"This proves Dudley Zoological Gardens is one of the country's leading zoos and we're proud our contributions towards conservation and animal welfare have been recognised by experts from within the zoo community."

The one-acre enclosure – which was wholly funded by the zoo and opened by TV presenter and conservationist Bill Oddie in 2014 – provides a replica of the gelada's wild habitat.

Zoo bosses said its vertical rocky landscape and grassland bank ideally suit the primates. Since introducing the species to the new enclosure, the venue has also welcomed three babies – Billie, Ambo and Gimbi – who enjoy barrelling down the hill together.



Bornean orangutan Sprout's birthday encounter with a bubble



Baby snow leopard Milo was cared for by staff after her mother died

Photographer Jason was honoured for two photos – one of orangutan Sprout being showered with bubbles on her birthday, and another of zoo staff caring for newborn snow leopard Milo after his mother's sudden death. The photo of the Bornean orangutan was captured on her fifth birthday. Sprout had never seen bubbles before

and couldn't quite believe her eyes as the colourful soapy suds floated towards her.

Zoo chiefs said that the previously unpublished photograph of staff looking after Milo shows how its dedicated keepers go above and beyond for the sake of the animals.

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My life-changer

No pain and no more multiple failing teeth | Speech now normal and perfectly clear | Stomach problems over and diet good

WHEN former university mental health lecturer Roy Philpott recognised involuntary changes in his social behaviour, he knew he needed help – and quickly.

"Below the radar," he says, "things were happening to my teeth in my early-60s and by the time I was 70, problems were visible and very acute."

But the issues were not just affecting his oral health. Studies of the mysterious collaborations between our bodies and minds have established medical links between failing teeth and mental wellbeing.

In Roy's case invasive gum disease had challenged his enthusiastic approach to retirement and not least his passion in working for the Guide Dogs charity.

A public speaker for the charity, he became aware of a "terrible self-consciousness" doing fundraising events.

Symptoms masked

"My normally clear speaking voice began to change and people were asking me to repeat what I'd said. On reflection, I was probably mumbling. Another strange thing for me was that I'd noticed I no longer smiled," he says.

During a period of three years he suffered numerous gum infections as the insidious disease saw him lose more and more teeth. "I'm a Black Country lad and typically Black Country folk cope and get on with things and that's just what I did," he adds.

When antibiotics failed to work he turned to alternative therapies and for a couple of years herbal prescriptions appeared to help.

However, in 2010, Roy recalls what he describes as a "turning point" in a downwards spiral that ultimately affected his ability to eat properly, his digestive system and social engagement. On holiday

in Scotland, Roy developed Bell's palsy, a partial paralysis of the face. "Treatment involved the prescription of steroids," he explains.

"Suddenly, all the problems with my teeth appeared to disappear, but of course

what really was happening, symptoms were being masked by the medication and the infection was still in the roots of my teeth. I thought it had gone, but it hadn't."

In less than a decade, Roy had lost more than 16 teeth and his diet had changed



Roy with his beloved Vonnie – the adopted labradoodle

dramatically. Embarrassing gaps meant he was able to chew on only one side and his healthy vegetarian diet, including his favourite apples, celery and grapes, was limited to soft food choices.

"My gums hurt, food impacted between my remaining teeth resulting in sideways pressure and more loosening, and I had to make conscious decisions not to stay in."

"There was no Pizza Hut for me and even a simple piece of toast I had to cut into small pieces. I was no longer really chewing food, just swallowing it and was experiencing stomach problems."

"I'd be chewing and a tooth would just fall out... I was not sleeping, had a partial denture I couldn't get on with and all I could think of was 'what on earth am I going to do?' I was desperate," he says.

Secure

Inspired by testimonials published in his local weekly newspaper, he sought help with Steven Burchell DipCDT RCS(Eng), principal of both North Street Dental and Implant Clinic and the Denture Clinic.

"What an eye-opener!"

"He spent an hour with me on my first consultation," says Roy. Treatment involved the placing of four upper and four lower implants to secure over-dentures.

"Totally secure, hugely functional and natural looking – we were able to help Roy return to the spontaneous lifestyle he enjoyed before his troubles set in," says Steven.

Predictably reassuring

Roy's patient journey

My experience with Steven and his team was the best and getting the implants is money well spent. You need to be committed to the process, but the end results are well worth it.

– Roy Philpott

Other testimonials

Steven's demeanour and attitude to it all gave me the confidence and assurance that they could resolve my problem. Knowing that Owain was going to do the surgery was great.

– Norma Aston

When I first saw my teeth I thought they looked just like my real teeth. My husband couldn't believe they were so good. From start to finish it took 14 weeks, but it was worth the wait.

– Viki Ball

Life with Guide Dogs

GUIDE Dogs puppy walkers Roy and wife, Sue, are committed to changing lives in their work for the charity.

For more than seven years they have been the "foster parents" of puppies which later became fully trained guide dogs. Currently, the couple from Dudley, have a beautiful labradoodle – Vonnie – the "diva of the house," says Sue.

Vonnie, who suffered retina damage in an accident, had her guide dog career cut short, but was adopted by the Philpotts. Roy and Sue were family to Dudley, the celebrity labrador puppy who was sponsored by the mayor's charity. The practice has also supported Guide Dogs.

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From dance to football, 'MBE' for volunteers

A FOOTBALL club, dancers, cancer support group and a community project are among the many groups receiving a Queen's Award.

Fourteen voluntary groups from the West Midlands have been hailed for their contribution in the community by the award – widely regarded as being the MBE for groups of volunteers.

In Wolverhampton, Access to Business (A2B), Ashmore Park Community Association, Bilston Town Community Football Club, Hope Community Project, Interfaith Wolverhampton, Jai Jashn Dance, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Prostate Cancer Support Group and The Haven were all recognised for their work in their community for the benefit of others.

Delight

Jaivant Patel, artistic director of community dance group Jai Jashn Dance, spoke of his delight. He said: "The organisation has been working a long time to really promote the Indian culture and diversity of dance."

Graham Hodson, chair of Bilston Town Community Football Club said he was 'chuffed to bits' to take the award on behalf of the club.

"We just do what we do and we know we are good at it, but never expected anything like this. It has been wonderful."

The European's Welfare Association CIC, Fastaid Black Country and The Glebe Centre, Walsall were also in receipt of the accolade along with White House Cancer Support, in Dudley.

Nationally, 224 winners have been announced. This prestigious UK National Honour recognises outstanding voluntary contributions and sets the national benchmark for excellence in volunteering, with the work of those awarded being judged to be of the highest standard. The 13 volunteer groups have received the award for



The Jai Jashn Dance group have been given the Queen's Award

outstanding voluntary work in their communities.

Staffordshire Women's Aid were also recognised for their hard work.

Dickie James, Chief Executive Officer of Staffordshire Women's Aid, said: "We are particularly proud and pleased to have received this recognition for our work during our 40th year celebrations."

A Walsall-based homeless centre have been awarded the distinguished Queen's Award for its volunteer programme.

The Glebe Centre, based on Wednesbury Road, Walsall, is run by YMCA Black Country.

Manager, Jane Hayward said: "Our volunteers are invaluable: they give their time to us, often working within a challenging environment, without any expectations of recompense. We genuinely could not deliver our services without them and we are incredibly grateful, and feel extremely fortunate, to benefit from the support, skills and experience they give to us so freely."

Those receiving this year's Award were selected from 486 groups nominated by members of the public.

The groups will receive a certificate signed by Her Majesty The Queen and an exclusive commemorative crystal.

Father and son escape injury after horror crash



Bhupinder Masaun with his son Jai



Emergency services at the scene.

Photo courtesy of Mr Masaun

"MY grip tightened around the steering wheel. The next thing I remember is the bang and the screeching sound. Then we were upside down, with glass everywhere."

These are the words of a father who escaped injury along with his 12-year-old son in a collision that saw their car land on its roof.

Bhupinder Masaun, known as Pop, aged 49, was travelling home with his son Jai in his Land Rover Freelander. Mr Masaun, who is a local government officer for Sandwell council, had picked up Jai from his football tournament in Walsall and was driving to their home in Park Road East, Wolverhampton.

He said they were travelling along the A4150, at around 2.30pm on Sunday, May 25, and he intended to carry straight on over the Chapel Ash island when they were hit by another car. Mr Masaun said: "I could see through my peripheral vision a white Audi. There

was a bang and a screeching sound. It was like a rollercoaster. We seemed to somersault in the air and then we were upside down."

Mr Masaun added: "My first thought was checking my son was okay. He said he was, so I told him I was going to release his seat belt, I did and he fell into the car."

The father of two managed to clamber out of the tiny gap between deployed the air bag and the ground and along with a member of the public, helped his son out of the passenger side. "Everyone has said we are lucky to be alive and I genuinely believe that."

Mr Masaun and his son were comforted by members of the public before the emergency services arrived. Then Mr Masaun rang his wife.

Kirsty Masaun, aged 48, had just dropped off their daughter, Saskia, 16, at her tuition class in Whitmore Reans when she got the call. "I told her we had broken down close to the Marston's Island. I tried to minimise it so

she wouldn't worry," Mr Masaun said.

Mrs Masaun said: "When I saw all the ambulances and police there I started to panic. I dumped the car in the Sainsbury's car park and ran through hedges and over the railings to get there. I knew my husband was all right but I didn't know anything about my son. I was just screaming."

Father and son were assessed by paramedics and declined to go to the hospital, as Jai wanted to go home with his family.

The family's car was recovered from the scene but was written off. The pair suffered minor cuts and bruises. Mr Masaun had glass fragments in his legs whilst both complained of back and neck pain. Mr Masaun said: "I just want to thank all the people that helped us. I already believed in the goodness of people, but now I believe in it even more."

Police said three vehicles were damaged in the incident and six people sustained minor injuries. They said inquiries were on-going.

Mansion is the wedding venue in romantic novel

A COUNTRY house near Dudley will feature in a romantic novel written by a Black Country author.

Owners of Blakelands Country House were thrilled to hear that they will be featured in West Bromwich author Keren Hughes's novel, My Best Friend's Fiancé, her fifth novel.

The author has visited Blakelands at Halfpenny Green, near Bobbington, on several occasions and when trying to imagine where the couple in the book would get married, she instantly thought of the venue.

Keren said: "I first visited Blakelands around 10 years ago and fell in love with it straight away. The main House dates back to 1500 and has a rich history, making it an impressive and romantic setting.

"I stayed in the Ebony and Ivory room and when I was thinking of a

place where my characters could go for their first romantic getaway, I straight away thought of Blakelands.

"Without giving too much away, there is a wedding scene later in the book, and as Blakelands is such a stunning wedding venue, I couldn't think of anywhere better for them to tie the knot."

Keren said: "My Best Friend's Fiancé is the story of a woman named Kara, who is in love with Reid. The only problem is, Reid is engaged to her best friend Zoey.

"Kara knows it's wrong to covet another woman's man but she can't help but fantasise about what life would be like if they were together."

The book is available to pre-order via Amazon now. Keren also has a Facebook page, www.facebook.com/authorkerenhughes



Setting for romantic novel – Blakelands Country House at Halfpenny Green, near Bobbington

£5m spent buying back council homes

A CASH-STRAPPED council in the Black Country has spent more than £5 million buying back homes which were originally sold at a discount under right to buy laws, it can be revealed.

Sandwell Council bought back 59 properties at a cost of £5.035 million.

Many of the homes were sold back to the authority for much more than they were bought for as the council came under pressure increase its housing stock.

Bosses insisted they only bought back properties if the deal provided value for money.

The right to buy policy was introduced by the Conservative Government in the 1980s, allowing council house tenants to buy their homes at a discount.

But a surge in house prices over recent years meant the value of the properties had rocketed by the time the authority came to buy them back.

Documents showed one house the council sold in Bodenham Road, Smethwick, for £12,370 in 1989 was bought back for £106,200 in 2014 under a mortgage rescue scheme – more than eight times the original price.

Police told of 15 child sex crimes every day

HUNDREDS of online child sex offences have been committed in the West Midlands over the last two years.

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has released figures showing that the internet was used to commit 241 child sexual offences across the region and it is calling on the next Government to make online safety a top priority.

Last year across England and Wales, 5,653 child sex crimes that were committed against children as young as three had an online element.

A total of 39 police forces reported cyber-related sex crimes against under-18s that included rape, grooming, and sexual assault.

This number has risen by 44 per cent from 2015/16 when 39 forces across England and Wales who responded to the same Freedom of Information request by the NSPCC, recorded 3,903 cyber-related sexual offences.

Flag

This is the second year police have been required to record – ‘cyber flag’ – any crime that involved the internet.

The latest figures show police are recording an average of 15 internet-related sex crimes against children a day, highlighting a worrying trend in how predators are using the internet to target children.

For offences where the age of the victim was recorded, 13 was the most common age of the victim

By Doug Wootton

(257 cases) but there were nearly 100 offences nationwide committed against children aged ten and under, with the youngest victim aged just three.

Peter Wanless, of the NSPCC, said: "These figures confirm our fears that offenders are exploiting the internet to target children for their own dark deeds.

"Children also tell our Childline service that they are being targeted online by some adults who pose as children and try to meet them, or persuade them to perform sexual acts on webcams, before blackmailing them. This terrifies them and can leave some feeling worthless, depressed, and suicidal."

He added: "We cannot idly sit by knowing that more and more innocent young people are being harmed online. Today's worrying data leaves the next Government with no choice but to urgently address this issue. We are calling on them to force internet companies and social media sites to adhere to rules that keep their young users safe."

Jacket clue after a pair of robberies

TWO shops were targeted by robbers within two weeks of each other in raids being linked by police.

Officers were initially called to the One Stop store on Bourne Street, Dudley. Two offenders entered the shop wearing masks and stole cigarettes and money on March 8 at 7.30pm. Almost two weeks later, on March 20, officers were called to the One Stop store in Horseley Street in Tipton at 8.50pm. Two masked men had threatened a staff member and stole a small quantity of cash and a large box of cigarettes.

One of the suspects was seen on CCTV wearing the same distinctive yellow jacket at both locations.

A West Midlands Police spokesman said: "Officers have been following numerous lines of inquiry, including forensics."

Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Constable Benjamin Parsons on 101 ext. 811 3101, or via email at b.parsons@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

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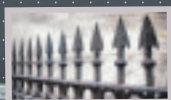
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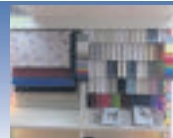
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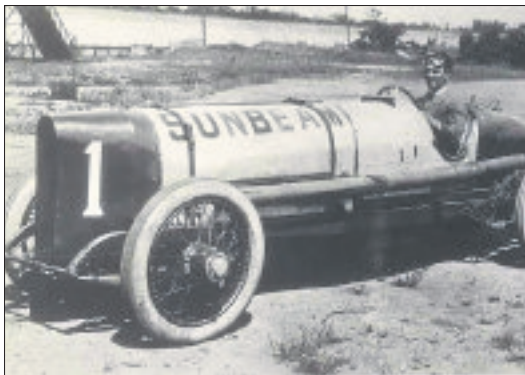


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The 350hp Sunbeam, the first car to exceed 150mph



The 1000hp Sunbeam in the Beaulieu Motor Museum



A Sunbeam-built Dyak-powered Avro at Dunstall Park

When Sunbeam shone bright as a big name in transport history



This photo of an engine is of the Arab which is now at the RAF Cosford museum

ONE of the great names in British transport history, and one of the biggest companies in Wolverhampton, The Sunbeam has not existed except as badges on other companies' vehicles since the 1930s, having only made their first powered vehicle in 1899.

Just as famous as aero-engine manufacturers during the First World War, when they were a clear rival to Rolls-Royce, their engines powered aircraft for a little over 10 years.

The first, a side-valve 110hp V8, was first run in 1912, and at the start of the war they were the only British maker of high-powered aero-engines.

The factory in Upper Villiers Street was turned over to building aero-en-

MEMORY LANE

By Alec Brew

gines and aircraft and their much sought-after staff cars were made by Rover in Coventry.

Sunbeam engines powered sea-planes and airships in particular, including the only aircraft to fly at the Battle of Jutland, and the first to sink a warship with a torpedo.

Surpass

The best Sunbeam engines were the V12 Cossack and Maori, but at the end of the war their reputation was largely ruined by the V8 Arab.

Ordered in huge numbers from four different companies, virtually off the drawing board, it was found to have severe vibration problems, and only 1,300 of the 6,000 ordered were ever built. After the war Sunbeam had some successes, powering the first

aircraft to fly the Atlantic both ways, the R.34 Airship, and the first aircraft ever owned by QANTAS in Australia, a Sunbeam Dyak-powered Avro 504, but the fall in their reputation caused by the Arab, and the superb reliability of the Rolls-Royce competition lead to the demise of the aero-engine division.

Strangely, the final successes of Sunbeam aero-engines were on the ground, where they powered Land Speed Record-breaking cars at speeds never achieved by Sunbeam-powered aircraft.

A modified V12 Manitou powered the 350hp Sunbeam which became the first to surpass 150mph, and two V12 Matabeles drove the 1000hp Sunbeam, The Slug, to the first Land Speed Record over 200 mph.

Locally a Sunbeam Manitou can be found in the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, and the last surviving Arab in the World, is in the RAF Museum Cosford.



A replica of QANTAS' first aircraft, the Sunbeam-Dyak powered Avro 504

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Swift range official fuel consumption figures in mpg (L/100km): Urban from 44.1 (6.4) to 58.8 (4.8), Extra Urban from 65.7 (4.3) to 76.3 (3.7), Combined from 56.5 (5.0) to 65.7 (4.3). Official CO2 emissions from 114g/km to 97g/km.

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results.



Eating fresh vegetables can boost your vitamin intake



Fish oil capsules with omega 3 and vitamin D

How you can spot vitamin deficiency warning signs

By Lisa Salmon

A WHOLE host of health niggles and full-blown medical conditions can be caused by low levels of vitamins and minerals.

Everyday symptoms like cracked lips, headaches, dandruff and bad breath, could just be one of those things – or they might be signs of a vitamin or mineral deficiency.

Itchy or dry skin, low mood, thinning hair, low libido, tiredness and even stress could all also indicate you need more of a certain nutrient.

Most of the 'symptoms' are niggles that'd be great to wipe out with a simple change of diet, yet recent research suggests up to six in 10 of us have no idea what health complaints might have a vitamin or mineral deficiency at their root. Despite this, a fifth of people have suffered from a symptom or health condition caused by a vitamin or mineral deficiency.

The research, by supplement retailer Healthspan (www.healthspan.co.uk), also found 36 per cent of those polled have made a conscious effort to boost their intake of certain vitamins and minerals because they felt they were lacking in them.

LOW LEVEL PROBLEM

Dr Carrie Ruxton, a dietician at the Health Supplements Information Service, says clinical deficiency in vitamins and minerals leading to full-blown medical symptoms is rare.

However, a high proportion of Brits have low blood levels of key nutrients, such as vitamin D, which affects up to four in 10 adults and teenagers.

IN THE BLOOD

As well as this, Ruxton says a significant proportion of people don't achieve recommended intakes of minerals and vitamins, including selenium, magnesium, potassium, zinc, riboflavin and vitamin A. But while symptoms such as lacklustre hair, brittle nails and tiredness could well be due to a vitamin or mineral deficiency, it's hard to be sure without taking a blood test.

"Many other lifestyle issues impact on health, libido and mood, such as sleep quality, alcohol consumption, smoking, stress, a sedentary indoor lifestyle and lack of physical activity," Ruxton points out. "The best way to improve your health is to make a holistic change, involving a balanced diet with plenty of fruit, vegetables and wholegrains, limited alcohol consumption, no smoking, and at least 60 minutes daily of outdoor physical activity."

"Adding a vitamin and mineral supplement, plus a fish oil if you don't eat much fish, is a useful way to ensure you meet dietary recommendations".

BAD MEDICINE?

The Healthspan survey also found almost half of Brits are unaware that taking medications, antibiotics and even drinking tea and coffee, may affect how you absorb vitamins and minerals.

GP and Healthspan expert Dr Sarah Brewer says an estimated 40 per cent of UK adults take at least one dietary supplement,



Healthy salad with canned cod liver, tomato, olives, lettuce and egg

and many of them are also taking one or more prescribed drugs.

"Although the risk of serious interactions between vitamins, minerals and prescribed drugs is low, many drugs appear to deplete body stores of vitamins and minerals," she says. "Many popular dietary ingredients also deplete levels of certain vitamins and minerals and can interfere with the absorption of food supplements."

FIVE SETS OF SYMPTOMS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Here are some common complaints that may be linked to low vitamin and mineral

levels - and the foods to help you top up...

Symptoms: Persistent dandruff
Could be low: Biotin or vitamin B7, essential fatty acids
Find it in: Fresh salmon, almonds, peanut butter, sunflower seeds
Symptoms: Cracked lips, thinning hair, split and brittle nails plus white spots on nails, tiredness, cold hands and feet
Could be low: Iron
Find it in: Red meat, red peppers, kale, tofu, strawberries, red kidney beans, kiwis, lemons, flaxseed, chicken liver
Symptoms: Psoriasis



A glass of water and some vitamins



A drop of blood on the finger ready to measure sugar level

Could be low: Vitamin D, plus mixed vitamin B, zinc and essential fatty acids
Find it in: Eggs, prawns, fresh tuna, mushrooms
Symptoms: Restless legs
Could be low: Magnesium, iron or folate
Find it in: Avocado, dried oregano, bulgur wheat, dark chocolate
Symptoms: Low mood
Could be low: Vitamin D, B vitamins, magnesium
Find it in: Quinoa, salmon, avocado, French beans

What to do about non-neighbourly neighbours

EVERYBODY needs good neighbours, but what can be done if someone refuses to be neighbourly?

With the summer fast approaching people are preparing to head out into their gardens, but before they can get the barbeque out some spring gardening must usually be undertaken.

For the most part, basic garden maintenance is rather straightforward, prune the hedges and shrubs, mow the lawn and get the chairs out of the shed.

But what happens when a neighbour's plant is growing across onto your property? And what can be done if a neighbour's tree is blocking the light into your garden?

Hannah Parsons, Solicitor from DAS Law is here to answer those all important questions.

Can you cut down branches that overhang into your garden?

The simple answer is yes, however there are a few points to consider before you start cutting. It is always best to speak with a neighbour and ask them to take action or advise them that you plan on cutting the branches that are overhanging into your garden. If you are cutting the branches back then simply cut them to the boundary line ensuring that it will not kill the tree/foliage. It is advisable to inform a neighbour that you either plan to place the branches carefully back on their land or to dispose of them.

It is always worth considering whether there is a Tree Preservation Order on particular trees, as this can prohibit some activities that can be carried out. A local planning department should be able to help with this.

Whose responsibility is it to repair or replace an adjoining broken fence?

Initially it is best to look at property deeds to assess whether it is clear who is obliged to fix a broken fence. In most cases deeds can be found through the Land Registry.

If deeds are unclear then it may be necessary to consider whether a precedent has been set where one party has normally fixed the fence. If so, arguably you could ask that they take steps to fix it again.

It is also possible for neighbours to agree between themselves who will fix a fence and how this would be done.

What if they refuse to maintain the fence?

If it's a neighbour's obligation to fix a fence and they aren't it may be necessary to put your concerns in writing to them asking them to take action or to try and reach an agreement with them.

If the above is unsuccessful it may be necessary to take legal advice on the matter,

although you will be unable to force a neighbour to maintain their fence unless it is causing damage or a nuisance to you or is trespassing on your property.

Do you have a right to light if a neighbour's tree blocks the sunlight to your garden?

There is generally no right to light in a garden.

Does your neighbour have a duty to control harmful weeds and invasive plant species which are affecting your garden?

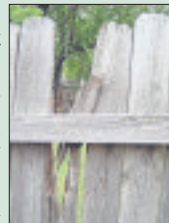
A neighbour does have a duty to prevent the spreading of harmful and invasive plant species. If a neighbour fails to take preventative steps there may be potential claims that can be taken against them. Legal advice would need to be taken on these claims.

There are also avenues to make complaints about a neighbour's failings, potential prosecutions that they may face and guidance as to how they should control or remove certain species. www.gov.uk offers guidance on prevention of harmful weeds and how to deal with invasive non-native plants spreading.

General advice

We would always advise diplomacy when dealing with people who live next to you, seeking legal guidance for your exact circumstances can give clarity to the situation. Legal expenses insurance sold as an add-on to or as part of your home insurance may provide cover for legal disputes with neighbours and often come with access to a legal advice helpline.

DAS Law is part of the DAS UK Group and offers a wide range of fixed fee legal services. They are employment and personal injury specialists.



Top comic bringing show to town hall



Katherine Ryan is bringing her Glitter Room show to Dudley Town Hall on October 14

TOP TV comedian Katherine Ryan is set to take the stage in Dudley later this year. The razor-sharp Canadian stand-up is currently dominating the UK television and live comedy scenes and will appear at Dudley Town Hall in October.

She is only the second British-based comedian to have a Netflix Original Comedy Special released all over the world and her critically-acclaimed factual series How'd You Get So Rich? recently aired on Channel 4. She is currently co-hosting Your Face Or Mine with Jimmy Carr on Comedy Central and appearing as a team captain opposite Richard Osman in Channel 4's Fake News. The comic has appeared on most of the top comedy panel shows.

Ryan's new show – entitled Glitter Room – comes to Dudley on October 14. Tickets for Katherine Ryan: Glitter Room will cost £19.50 plus booking fees. See www.boroughhalls.co.uk or call (01384) 812812. She is just one of several big name comedians coming to Dudley and Stourbridge Town Halls. They include Gary Delaney, Milton Jones, Paul Chowdhry, Matt Forde, Lee Nelson, Jethro, David Baddiel and Jason Manford.

Seller to pay £2k over car that he sold on eBay

A CAR dealer who ran a business on the internet whilst claiming to be a private vendor has been handed a court bill for more than £2,000.

A judge warned 36-year-old Michael Bartlett to also expect a visit from the tax man because his dodgy dealings.

Bartlett sold an Alfa Romeo to a man from Dudley for £775 in March last year after advertising it on the online site eBay, Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard.

The buyer picked up the car from Bartlett's home in Cheshire but a few days later took it to the RAC for an inspection. Their mechanics felt the car had been ne... said Ms... prosecuting.

When the buyer was unable to contact Bartlett through eBay or text, he decided to return the vehicle. When Bartlett was not at the address, he left the car on the drive along with contact details but retained the keys. On March 18 he received a letter from Bartlett telling him he had no rights in law because he was a private seller.

It was found that the

By Marion Brennan

Romeo's milometer had been tampered with to read 99,000 miles on the clock instead of 101,014 miles.

The court heard that the buyer had successfully pursued Bartlett through the county court and that High Court enforcement officers had since visited his home to recover the debt.

Bartlett said he had intended to use the Romeo himself while he took his own classic Ford off the road to do some maintenance on it, so 'in effect' it was a private sale. But the court was told that Bartlett had sold another 19 cars on eBay.

Bartlett, of Finsbury Walk, Winsford, pleaded guilty to four charges relating to unfair practice. He was fined £575 and ordered to pay £1,500 costs.

4 – 16 SEP
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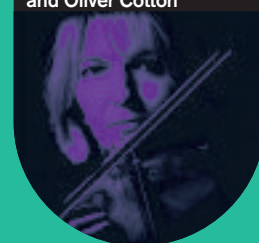
5 – 16 SEP
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**LAUNCHES
WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE**

There are flowers for all seasons, says Dan

HE has designed the most ambitious award-winning gardens and is a pioneer of natural landscapes and landforms, a wild flower expert and a seasoned plantsman and columnist.

Now Dan Pearson (pictured) has collated 10 years of his writing to bring us a year-round celebration of the garden, both practical and inspirational, urban and rural, in his new book Natural Selection.

But his personal favourite seasons are spring and autumn.

"I like spring for the opening up and all that optimism and its break with our long and grey winter, and all that energy," he said. "I like autumn for the fact that it's so relaxed in comparison with the growing season that's just come before. As a gardener, you can let go a little at this point and stop and look. Most things have done what they're going to do or are in the throes of their last fling.



"It's to do with berries, colouring, vegetation changing its nature, perennials becoming skeletons and asters coming into their own with a huge amount of colour. All that lovely smell of fermentation and decay provides a tremendously evocative time of year."

Of course, he has a plethora of favourite plants for all seasons, but here are some of those he wouldn't be without.

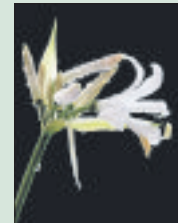
SPRING

Epimedium: "I have a whole collection and I love them because they have really interesting leaf mottling and colourings and very delicate flowers. I have European and Asian ones. Epimedium Caramel and E. x versicolor Sulphureum are two really good ones. They look good with the tail end of snowdrops and are good with things that are lower, such as creeping strawberries, and are pretty with a little grass called Melica altissima Alba.

Blossom: "My favourite blossom tree is Malus hupehensis because it is scented, it has a very pale pink bud and pure white flower. It's glamorous without being in-your-face. It's graceful and it's just at the beginning of its wonderfully long season because it reappears as berries or hips in the autumn. It's just a really good crab apple, not too big for a small garden. I would put that with a backdrop of simple dark holly."

SUMMER

Sanguisorba Cangshan Cranberry: "This tall and elegant perennial flowers from high summer until October. It's good in association with other things because it's got lots of transparency to it. It has very small rich red-burgundy drumstick flowers so you can use it with other things very effectively. I'd pair it with veronicastrum or Persicaria amplexicaulis. They are lovely with those verticals."



the scent of fresh apples. It produces single pink-flowered dog roses in the summer and beautiful autumn hips. I grow it in hedges with hawthorn and hazel. You can also grow it on its own and it's beautiful in long meadow grass."

AUTUMN

Aster: "Asters are so smart during the summer, just getting ready for their big autumn show so they never look tired. In August, when lots of things have already been and gone and are looking awful, the asters are looking terrific. One of my favourites is Turbinellus, which is lilac-blue and very late flowering, bearing tiny little flowers and very open sprays so there's lots of space in it and I'd team it up with tall-growing veronias or something like bronze fennel, which is going into its autumn colouring by then."

Nerine bowdennii (pictured): "These brilliant pink bulbs love a hot, sunny place, ideally against a south-facing wall. They are never disappointing, flower for weeks and are really tough if they have free drainage and sunshine. I'd team them with Viola labradorica."

WINTER

Hamamelis (witch hazel): "You can't have winter without hamamelis. You get perfume, you get a blaze of colour, but it's not heavy-handed. There's a range of different varieties. I love Gingerbread, which is a lovely gingery-orange. I have it against a west-facing wall underplanted with snowdrops and marsh asparagus."

Natural Selection by Dan Pearson is published by Guardian Faber, priced £20 hardback



A pretty sight – Cherry lupine plants can be grown easily from seed

The cottage garden stalwart that's easy to grow at home

BEST OF THE BUNCH – Lupin (Lupinus)

THEY are the stalwarts of the cottage garden and among the most popular perennials, their spikes of impressive flowers appear in early summer above clumps of palmate leaves. Lupins are also really easy to grow from seed, so save yourself some money next year by sowing seeds under glass in spring. Lupins come in a huge range of colours and bicolours, last well when cut and are great plant partners for delphiniums and Oriental poppies. They should be deadheaded when the first flowers have finished, to encourage a second flush. Good varieties include the Russell hybrids which grow to around 90cm (3ft) and are among the earliest and most reliable hybrids. Lupins will grow in reasonably fertile, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade. Be warned, though, slugs and snails love them so keep young plants well protected.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT – Watering veg

The watering season has begun in earnest and vegetables will need much of your time. Water them in the evening, when the sun has gone down, to minimise evaporation. If the ground is already really dry, sprinkle the surface before

doing the proper watering a few minutes later, once the sprinkled water has penetrated. The first dampening wets the surface and reduces water lost from surface run-off. Obviously, water is all-important to crops, but there are certain vegetables which you shouldn't over-water or they will under-perform. Once established, unless there's a drought, root vegetables such as beetroot and carrot should not be watered, along with perennial crops such as asparagus and globe artichoke. Their roots should go down deep into the soil and will find available moisture. However, you must water all newly planted and sown vegetables for a few weeks until they are established, and those grown in containers, daily, if necessary.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

:: Lift forget-me-nots which have not been used in spring bedding schemes and reset them in a spare corner of the garden.

:: Pinch out young fruit growth on trained fruit trees at the fourth leaf. Leave the leading growth at the end of each stem.

:: Make more sowings of carrots, turnips, beet, lettuce and ridge cucumbers.

New generation of roses moves into the limelight

Report by Hannah Stephenson

DAME Judi Dench, Alan Titchmarsh, Mary Berry and other celebrities may all have roses named after them, but many of us have our own favourites, whether it be for blooms or fragrance.

Personally, I love Gertrude Jekyll, the velvety rich pink variety from Shropshire-based David Austin I have growing in a border with large-flowered pink striped Nelly Moser clematis, the waft of fragrance hitting me every time I walk past it in the cool of the morning.

It's ironic though, that the headiest scents, which usually come from the deeper, richer-coloured blousy bloomed varieties, are often more attractive to people than they are to pollinating insects, which tend to go for the simpler forms with paler colours, which in turn tend to be less strongly scented.

Breeders have worked long and hard over the years to develop roses that combine visual splendour with fragrance, yet it is a complex job. Rose growers know that you can combine two fantastically fragrant parents and produce a seedling with no scent at all.

Also, some roses with amazing perfumes such as "Whisky Mac" may struggle to make it through a harsh British winter. So your first priority is to choose a rose that is healthy and with good vigour.

They prefer rich soil in a sunny site and plenty of added organic matter, because roses are hungry feeders. If you can, improve your soil the previous winter with well-rotted manure and apply a dry feed in early spring and again in early summer.

Place your roses where you will be able to enjoy their fragrance, perhaps near a bench or climbing over an arbour where you sit in the morning, when the fragrance tends to be strongest.

Don't relegate prize specimens to the back of the garden where you won't venture to appreciate their beauty and fragrance.

Here are some of the new roses launched at this year's show to look out for:

JANE AUSTEN ROSE

A bright orange floribunda rose, selected by the Jane Austen's House Museum to mark the 200th anniversary of the author's death this year. The bright orange colour was chosen to reflect the vibrancy of Austen's characters, while its light and sweet scent and the depth of colour radiates warmth. (Harkness, www.roses.co.uk)

DAME JUDI DENCH ("AUSQUAKER")

Named after one of Britain's most beloved stars of stage and screen, this apricot-coloured rose has blooms that are resistant to rain damage and a medium-strong fragrance that experts have described as combining classic tea with a fresh note of cucumber and a hint of kiwi. It's a vigorous grower, producing strong, arching stems which, over time, form an attractive mound of blooms. (David Austin, Albrighton, www.davidautinroses.co.uk)



Dame Judi Dench holding an apricot rose named after her as it was launched by Shropshire grower David Austin Roses at Chelsea



The Jane Austen rose from Harkness

PAPWORTH'S PRIDE

This pretty addition to a Modern Classic collection bears clusters of large raspberry red, peony style flowers that unfold to reveal bright yellow anthers that are a magnet to insects.

Intensely perfumed with bright, glossy, mid-green foliage, this medium-sized shrub looks great planted en masse, in the middle

of a herbaceous border or grown simply in a tub as a specimen plant to enhance a patio or paved area. (Peter Beales, www.classicroses.co.uk)

VANESSA BELL (AUSEASEL)

This English musk hybrid with rounded, pink tinged-buds opening to reveal deep, medium-sized soft-lemon yellow cups in large, open clusters, is named after the



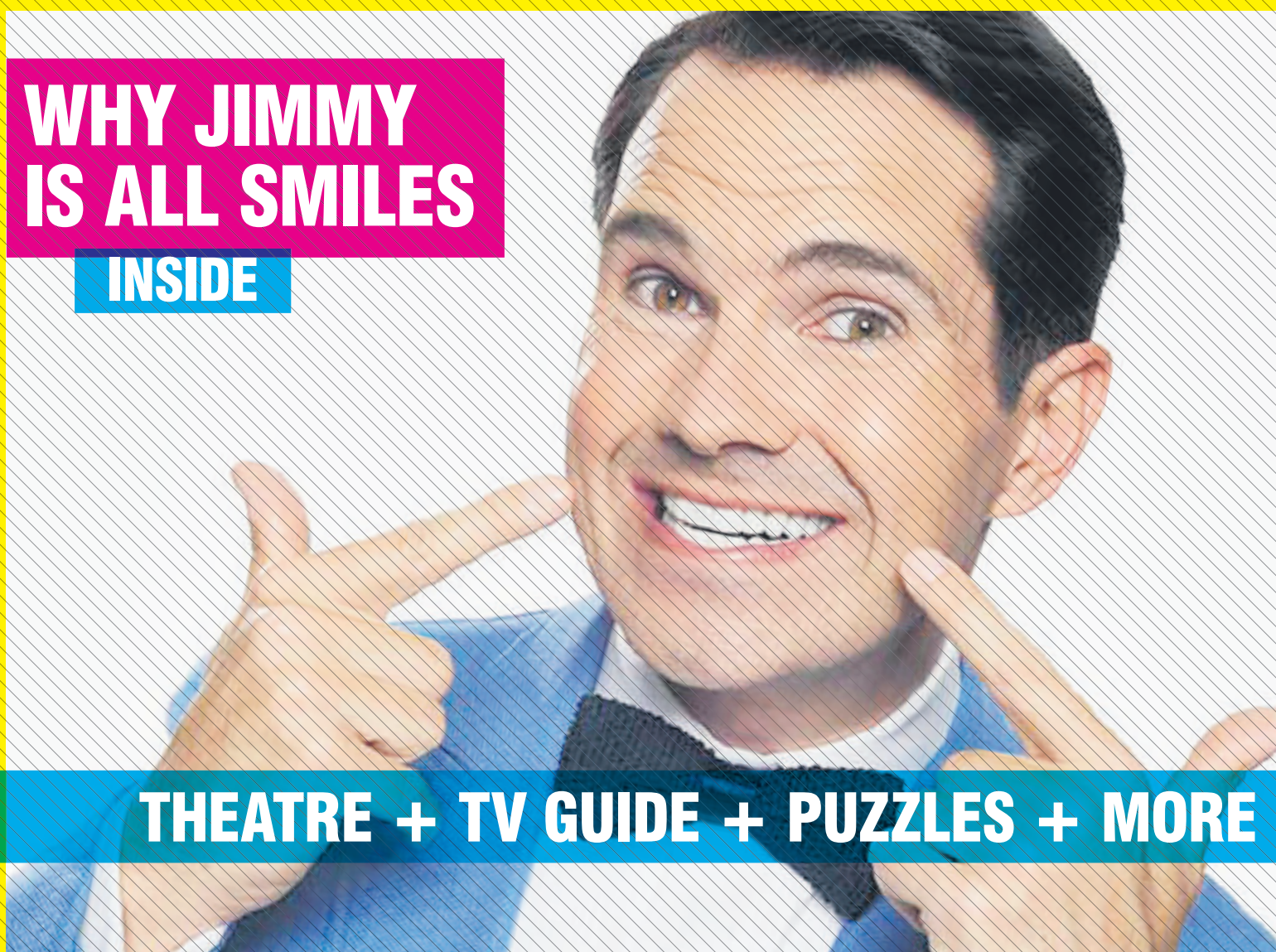
The Vanessa Bell rose from David Austin Roses

artist, designer and founder member of the Bloomsbury Group, Vanessa Bell - sister of Virginia Woolf.

Ten per cent from the sale of each rose will be donated to The Charleston Trust, Vanessa's former home, now managed and conserved by the charity for the benefit of the public. (www.davidautinroses.com)

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It's only a joke if the audience laugh

Funnyman Jimmy Carr has been one of nation's most successful stand-up comics, since launching his career in 2000.

The deadpan master of dark humour has also become a household name through his work on the Channel 4 panel show 8 Out of 10 Cats and The Big Fat Quiz of the Year.

He's back on the road after gathering a selection of his very best jokes along with brand new material for the ultimate comedy show. Jimmy will headline Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Saturday in The Best of, Ultimate Gold, Greatest Hits Tour.

A man who has devoted his life to crafting perfect jokes and has left a trail of laughter in his wake, his new tour will distill everything we love to laugh at and be shocked by, into one unparalleled night of entertainment.

During his years in stand-up, Jimmy has performed nine sell-out tours, playing nearly 2,000 shows to over two million people across four continents. He's won the British Comedy Award for Best Live Stand-Up Tour and been nominated for the Perrier Award.

At the start of his career, Jimmy had no plans to work in TV. "I had no aspiration as a kid at all. If I'd known that it was possible to work in television, I would have wanted to be a producer; but I didn't know anyone in that world. It wasn't an option.

"Instead I took the line of least resistance. I grew up in middle-class Berkshire, so I was obviously going to do A Levels and try to get to the best university possible.

"The fact I've lost my Catholic faith would probably come as the biggest surprise.

"I got to Cambridge and then worked way too hard to get a job in marketing for a blue-chip company. It was amazing that at no point during those years did I think, 'What the devil am I up to?'

"My young self would be a bit shocked that in my mid-20s I made a conscious decision to do something completely out of the ordinary. I left my well-paid job to join the circus.

SUSHI

"The whole being-on-television thing would seem a bit surreal to my younger self. I think I'd also be a bit concerned at the lack of work I do: I only have to do two hours a day max to be considered the hardest working man in comedy.

"I was a little bit melancholy as a youngster but I'm a lot happier now. Doing comedy makes me happy."

Jimmy has taken his show around the world and has proved a hit in Japan. He was thrilled to fly out to the Land of the Rising Sun.

"I desperately wanted to go to Japan. My promoter friend and I are obsessed with food. So we were looking at places to go and tour with amazing restaurants so we can go and eat some amazing food. And Tokyo was number one on our list. We basically put it in the tour so we could eat incredible Japanese food. It is the best in the world. If you like watching documentaries on people making sushi, which I do, who doesn't want to go to Japan?"

In an age of observational comedy, Jimmy is happy to go it alone and tell jokes. He has no axe to grind and just likes making people laugh.

"In this day and age people don't do one-line jokes. There's an American tradition of telling people about their lives. But I don't mean it. It's not like I'm telling jokes but there's a message there. I have no axe to grind. I'm an entertainer. I'm not trying to be a wise man. My thing on

controversy is it's an easy story on a slow news day. I never apologise for jokes. At most I've said sorry you're upset. It was a joke! I'm only joking. I'm not making a serious political statement; I'm just making you laugh.

"You have to be respectful of the right to be offended but I will joke about anything as long as the joke is good enough to warrant it. There's got to be a gut-wrenching laugh. My favourite noise in comedy is a laugh followed by an intake of breath. Because a laugh is a reflex. A sharp intake is their conscience saying they shouldn't have laughed at that. The audience regulate comedy in a way that doesn't happen in other art forms. If the audience don't laugh it wasn't even a joke, it was just two sentences strung together. Ultimately they are the arbiters of taste and decency and what's funny."

Jimmy's new show deals with many of the funniest jokes he's ever told and he's perfectly happy to return to that material. He thinks people will enjoy hearing the best gags again – just as rock fans love listening to their favourite band's hits.

"I'm quite an old fashioned comedian in a strange way, because not many people do one liners anymore – not many people do jokes. They might do a long story that's got a lots of laughs along the way and then a big punch line at the end and if you've heard that before, you know where it goes and the surprise is done. But when you're telling three, four gags a minute, I think you can go back. People forget them.

"People tell me my own jokes. It's one of my favourite things: at the end of the show there's always a signing and people kind of go "I've got one you're going to love" and you go "Yes – that's from my second DVD!" It's a lovely thing when they live on in someone else's head. It's quite sweet. But I'm not frightened by it because I've sort of been doing best-of shows on the quiet for years – they're called corporates."

Perceptions of Jimmy have changed over the year. Once he was thought of as the dark prince of comedy, an enfant terrible who'd tell scandalous gags. However, opinions towards him have mellowed – even though his material hasn't. He's happy to no longer be in the spotlight – and even happier that he's more successful than ever.

"I'm probably bigger now than I've ever been, but it's less of a story. I can sell lots of tickets, I can play shows, but it's kind of under the radar. But it's when you're on the up and you'll be famous in a year, everyone comes to see you. I think it's because it's almost irritating: 'Who's this new guy? He's come from nowhere!' I was really conscious of this one year, when I was on Channel 4 like four nights a week and people were like 'what?'. Now if I do that, people just go 'oh yeah, course he is.'"

Jimmy's appetite for comedy started at an early age. During his school years, he was part of a gang where the objective was to make one another laugh.

"If you weren't funny at school, you weren't one of our friends. That taught me to handle hecklers. Having a good sense of humour was how you'd be in the group. Everyone was just very, very good. That really has been a lifelong love of mine – taking the piss and knowing where to draw the line. If someone heckles me now I just think, 'OK, here we go. I've been

doing this for years!" And though he's now thought of as being one of the hardest working men in showbusiness, in fact, he used to work much harder.

"I really enjoyed working after university in advertising and marketing. I'd tell myself at 16 it is nice to have a relatable and normal life. If you go straight into showbusiness you are never really grateful for how easy it is. And it is really easy. When you start doing comedy it is the first time you are self-employed so you think you are never going to do any more gigs than this – so you do all of them. I remember for the first four years in comedy I was doing upwards of 300 gigs a year. If someone asked me if I wanted to go to Plymouth for £60 I'd say yes. I was paying my dues."

● For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.



The amazing Illumaphonium



Grand nights out form part of city's Artsfest 2017

The Grand Theatre has teamed with the University of Wolverhampton, Arena Theatre and other arts organisations in the city to celebrate Artsfest during June.

The festival of arts and culture in Wolverhampton and surrounding areas starts today (Thursday) and continues until June 30.

Artsfest is celebrating the cultural life of the Black Country and emerging artists whose work is made in the region. Both professional and student work will be on show in more than 20 venues across the city.

Artsfest 2017 will include more than 70 events in the fields of performing arts, poetry and literature, film, media, art and design.

Grand Theatre contributions to the programme include the stage adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's

Running Wild until Saturday. Then Brummie comic Don Maclean tops a bill at the Grand Music Hall on June 14 which also features Grand panto dame Ian Adams and Gill Jordan, best known for her alter-ego Doreen.

Other Grand highlights will include comedian Stewart Lee, Mod musical All Or Nothing featuring the music of The Small Faces, and flamboyant musical La Cage Aux Folles with West End stars John Partridge and Marti Webb.

Highlights at other venues include Wolves Are People Too at the Arena Theatre on Saturday, free event, Reynard The Fox: The Fabularium, at the Mander Centre on June 16. Illumaphonium is a free music installation at Light House Media Centre between noon and 8pm on June 17. A full list of events can be found in the brochure at participating venues or online at wlv.ac.uk/artsfest.

High hopes for Ruth's Pan fantasy



Birmingham Royal Ballet performs the world premiere of Arcadia at Birmingham Hippodrome this month.

The one-act ballet is the first major commission as choreographer for Birmingham Royal Ballet dancer Ruth Brill (pictured), and will be part of a three ballet programme alongside Michael Corder's Le Baiser de la fée and John Cranko's ever-popular Pineapple Poll.

Arcadia was born when BRB director David Bintley mentioned John Harle's music to Ruth. The Tyneside-born musician is probably best known for composing the theme to TV's Silent Witness and for working with Michael Nyman.

After watching her initial work, Bintley commissioned Ruth to choreograph Arcadia. Designed by Birmingham City University student Atena Ameri and accompanied by a striking new score from saxophonist Harle, this new work is centred around the Ancient Greek god Pan and his dual nature, as half-man, half-animal.

The Kent-born ballerina says: "This is an incredible opportunity for me as a young choreographer. It is rare for an artistic director to give an opportunity like this."

"I've learnt so much from David throughout this process and it's an honour to be part of the choreographic legacy of Birmingham Royal Ballet."

Ruth is no stranger to

choreographing for diverse projects, both her Rhapsody In Blue and Matryoskha for BRB were memorable, but Arcadia represents her biggest challenge to date.

She says: "This is the first time I've worked with a composer and the collaboration with John Harle has been wonderful. We are also honoured that he will be performing live at every show."

Designer Atena Ameri has taken a year out from her degree at BCU to design the brand-new ballet, after wowing ballet bosses with her exceptional portfolio.

Birmingham Royal Ballet perform family favourite Coppélia from June 13 to 17. Then Arcadia is top of the triple bill from June 21 to 24. See www.brb.org.uk for further details.

Future has arrived with Kraftwerk

No doubt what the gig of the week is, the ultra-rare and long sold out 3D concert by Kraftwerk at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Tuesday.

The appearance by the robotic German synth pioneers is eagerly-awaited by fans of the group, whose melodic minimalist machine music has been highly influential on rock and dance music.

Since Kraftwerk emerged from Düsseldorf in the 70s, singing 'Wir fahren fahren fahren auf der Autobahn', the future they predicted has arrived.



Tributes from AC/DC through to the Big O

MUSICAL tributes are still all the rage. Wolverhampton Grand hosts And Finally... Phil Collins, an 11-piece band celebrating their tenth anniversary performing Phil Collins and Genesis songs, at the Lichfield Street venue on June 18. Over in Bilston at the Robin 2, tomorrow (Friday) The Doors Alive recreate the sound of Jim Morrison and co, then The Dirty DC rock like Aussie legends AC/DC on Saturday. Plus tributes to Slash on June 15 and Whip It outfit Devo on June 16. Novana play Cobain classics at the O2 Academy in Brum on Saturday, and the venue hosts Bat Sabbath, Cancer Bats' tribute to Black Sabbath on Wednesday. That's the same night Mercury: The Ultimate Queen Tribute is at the New Alexandra Theatre, which hosts The Illegal Eagles on June 15 and The Roy Orbison Story on June 16.

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CHOICE



The Voice Kids (ITV, 7.45pm)
New series. Emma Willis introduces the junior version of the singing talent contest, giving youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 a chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.i.am returns as one of the three coaches, with McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupying the other two spinning red chairs. Up for grabs this time is a £30,000 prize to contribute to the winning child's musical education, along with a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights. **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **4.15** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.05** BBC News. **5.15** Regional Programme. **5.25** Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom. (1984) Action adventure, starring Harrison Ford.
7.15 **Doctor Who**. The Time Lord, Bill and Nardole find themselves on Mars, but despite removing themselves from Earth, they still end up embroiled in yet another stand-off between humanity and alien forces. This time, though, mankind has become the aggressor. In a bid to extend their queen's empire into space, Victorian soldiers have somehow invaded the red planet, and their activities threaten to awaken a hive of militant Ice Warriors, for whom Mars is home. As tensions escalate, the Doctor faces a unique dilemma. He has vowed to serve humanity as its protector, but when it is the humans who are the invaders, whose side should he take? Sci-fi drama, starring Peter Capaldi, Pearl Mackie and Matt Lucas.
8.00 **Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.
8.45 **Casualty**. Violence at a right-wing rally outside a local Muslim community centre brings the Ellison family back into the ER, and gives Ethan a chance to confront Scott about Cal's death.
9.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys**. Agnes goes on a diet after her family's comments about her weight, but soon realises how difficult it will be to lay off the fish and chips. (R)
10.00 **BBC News**: Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 **Would I Lie to You?** Gareth Malone, Amanda Abbington, Richard Osman and Phil Jupitus join David Mitchell and guest captain Greg Davies on the truth-or-lies comedy panel show, hosted by Rob Brydon. (R)
10.50 **Film: Shanghai Noon**. (2000) Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson.
12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **7.00** **Film**: Dance, Girl, Dance. (1940) **8.25** **Film**: The Westerner. (1940) **10.00** Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Bette Davis: Talking Pictures. (R) **2.15** **Film**: Now, Voyager. (1942) Romantic drama, starring Bette Davis and Claude Rains. **4.10** Flog It! (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World.
6.00 **Great Continental Railway Journeys**. Michael Portillo ventures onto the European rail network to retrace journeys featured in George Bradshaw's 1913 publication Continental Guide. (R)
6.30 **Dad's Army**. (R)
7.00 **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2017**. Kirsty Wark and Brenda Emmanus tour the Royal Academy galleries during a glamorous private preview of this year's Summer Exhibition, which is due to open to the public on Tuesday. The exhibition sees established British artists displaying work alongside that of less well-known contemporaries, and here, Kirsty and Brenda go behind the scenes of the event in the run-up to the grand opening. The pair meet some of the featured artists, and explore the process of curating the world's largest open-submission exhibition.
8.00 **Live International Rugby Union**. Argentina v England (Kick-off 8.15pm). Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the opening match of the two-Test series, staged at the Estadio San Juan del Bicentenario in San Juan. This tour represents a chance for several players to stake a claim to a regular place in Eddie Jones' squad, with England missing their leading stars to the Lions' tour of New Zealand. With commentary by Eddie Butler and Andy Robinson, and analysis by Clive Woodward and Jeremy Guscott.
10.30 **Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights**. England v Australia.
11.20 **Versailles**. Louis XIV returns to Versailles vowing to purify his private life, while Madame de Montespan hopes to cement her place in his heart. George Blagden and Anna Brewster star. (R) Inside Versailles.
12.20 **Film**: Elles. (2011) **1.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Home Game. (R) **10.20** Grriff's Great Britain. (R) **10.50** Britain's Got Talent Final. (R) **1.20** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. John Inverdale presents coverage of the women's singles final. **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. Scotland v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).
7.30 **Regional Programme**: Weather.
7.35 **ITV News**: Weather.
7.45 **The Voice Kids**. New series. Emma Willis introduces the junior version of the singing talent contest, giving youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 a chance to achieve stardom. The Voice UK's Will.i.am returns as one of the three coaches, with McFly's Danny Jones and pop star Pixie Lott occupying the other two spinning red chairs. Up for grabs this time is a £30,000 prize to contribute to the winning child's musical education, along with a family holiday to Disneyland Paris.
9.15 **Film: Horrible Bosses**. (2011) Premiere. A power-crazed bully, a sleazy cocaine addict and a sexual predator each make an employee's life a misery, but the three workers cannot afford to quit their jobs. They resort to desperate measures by conspiring to murder each other's bosses, with a little help from an eccentric ex-convict. Comedy, starring Jason Bateman, Charlie Day, Jason Sudeikis, Kevin Spacey, Jennifer Aniston and Colin Farrell.
11.05 **ITV News**: Weather.
11.25 **World Cup Qualifier Highlights**. Scotland v England. Action from the Group F fixture, which took place at Hampden Park, as the old rivals met for the 114th time.
12.25 **Tipping Point**. Game show, hosted by Ben Shepherd. (R) **1.20** Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette, wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? Former footballer Neil Ruddock plays host. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.45** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.15** Swansea Triathlon. **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.30** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.35** Big House, Little House. **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)
6.30 **Channel 4 News**.
7.00 **Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson**. Tony follows the Ridgeway from the Wiltshire Downs, through Berkshire and Oxfordshire, finally arriving on the banks of the Thames. Along the way, he visits a world-famous stone circle and explores an ancient burial chamber that is older than the pyramids, follows in the tracks of Celtic chariots, and discovers the story behind a white horse. (R)
8.00 **Film: Iron Man**. (2008) Arms manufacturer Tony Stark is taken hostage by a terrorist group and realises the weapons his company build have been falling into the wrong hands. Using his engineering skills to construct a hi-tech armoured suit, he manages to escape and then puts the technology to good use in the fight against evil around the world. Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr, Jeff Bridges, Gwyneth Paltrow and Terrence Howard.
10.30 **Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights**. Steve Jones presents action from Montreal, where the grid positions for the seventh round of the season were decided at the Circuit Gilles-Villeneuve.
12.00 **Film: Horns**. (2013) A man suspected of murder grows horns and develops supernatural powers, which he uses to track down the real killer. Horror, starring Daniel Radcliffe and Juno Temple. **2.05** Hollyoaks: Omnibus. Grace and Warren end up in a tricky situation. **4.05** Ackley Bridge. A six-part school drama series set in a Yorkshire mill town. (R) **5.00** Fifteen to One. (R) **5.55** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** FIA Formula E Live. The first Berlin ePrix race. **4.15** Nightmare Tenants: Slum Landlords. (R) **5.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.15 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door**. A pensioner who fell out with his young neighbour over his loud parties, and two musicians who were not even at home when their neighbours claimed they were making too much noise. (R)
7.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. Paul and Ben try to drill through the locks on a property to evict the residents, only to find to their surprise that the door has been modified with some special reinforced metal. Elsewhere, Delroy and Brian try to reclaim money a garage owes to a customer and are shocked by the condition of the vehicle in question, and a woman who has acted as guarantor for her sister's tenancy does not realise the extent of her responsibilities. (R)
8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away**. In Staffordshire agents try to collect nearly £2,500 in unpaid parking fines, while officers head to the West Midlands to recover £4,500 owed from a debtor to his former girlfriend. (R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend**.
9.00 **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights, revealing the housemates' reactions to the first eviction, as well as the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs and diary room visits. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
10.05 **Best of Bad TV: The 90s**. A look at the decade that brought many opportunities for eye-popping errors, including the ill-conceived TV sitcom Heil Honey I'm Home!, featuring a fictionalised Adolf Hitler. (R)
11.35 **Lip Sync Battle UK: Peter Andre vs Gino D'Acampo**. Melanie Brown and Professor Green present as reality star Peter Andre and presenter and Italian TV chef Gino D'Acampo go head to head lip-synching to hit songs. (R)
12.00 **SuperCasino**. **3.10** **Film**: Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery. (1997) **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00** Cardinal **10.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.40** Metal at the BBC **12.10** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.10** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **2.10** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **3.10** Metal at the BBC **3.40** Close
ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out **12.25** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold: The Next Generation **2.35** FYI Daily **3.40** **Film**: What a Girl Wants (2003) **4.40** **Film**: Happy Feet (2006) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** **Film**: Happy Feet (2006) **6.50** **Film**: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** **Celebrity Juice** **10.45** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** **Celebrity Juice**: Bestest Bits 2017 **2.10** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping
ITV3
12.55 Lewis **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
11.00 **The Motorbike Show** **1.00** TT 2017 **2.00** **ITV Racing**: Live from Haydock. Coverage of today's race meetings at Haydock Park, Newmarket and Chester. **4.25** Live French Open Tennis. Coverage of the men's doubles final at Roland Garros. **6.30** Storage Wars **8.55** The Sweeney **8.00** **Cycling**: Women's Tour Highlights **9.00** TT 2017 **10.00** **Cycling**: Criterium du Dauphine Highlights **11.05** **Film**: Transporter 3 (2008) **12.05** FYI Daily **12.10** **Film**: Transporter 3 (2008) **1.15** TT 2017 **2.10** The Motorbike Show **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **1.25** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.25** **Film**: The Core (2003) **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film**: Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Red Tube **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** First Dates Abroad **4.30** New Girl
Film4
11.00 Gideon of Scotland Yard (1958) **1.00** School of Rock. (2003) **3.10** Carry On Nurse (1959) **4.55** Night at the Museum (2006) **7.05** Unstoppable (2010) **9.00** Red 2 (2013) **11.5** Legion (2010) **1.15** The French Connection (1971) **3.30** Close

Sizzling Summer Specials at Bangla Lounge

Commercial feature

INDIAN restaurant Bangla Lounge has been a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street for more than a decade, attracting a loyal clientele with its mouth-watering range of traditional favourites and in-house specialities.

Head chef Abdul Ahad, who has worked for manager Bari Azad and his family for more than 20 years, continues to bring creative flair to traditional dishes as well as creating his own delicious specialities.

Recent additions to the extensive menu include lamb curry which is slow cooked with garlic and ginger.

There are plenty of options for vegetarians and for fish lovers including salmon, prawn and white fish.

Offer

Mr Azad said: "Because people traditionally like to keep a tight rein on their purses and wallets we're introducing a new offer on Friday and Saturday evenings when diners can enjoy any starter, any main course, rice or naan, or vegetable dish plus ice cream and coffee for just £13.95. This offer is available for a limited period only."

Diners visiting on any evening between Sunday and Thursday can enjoy a two-for-one offer on main courses (eat in only, terms and conditions apply).

Bangla Lounge is aware that some weight conscious diners will be aiming to shed a few pounds getting their body ready for the Summer and will be serving wholemeal bread and rice on request plus lower fat dishes.

The friendly staff are more than happy to advise on the healthier options that are available on the menu.



The stylish interior of popular Halesowen restaurant Bangla Lounge, where new dishes have been added to the menu

If you are planning a celebration in 2017, the restaurant's upstairs function room, which can cater for up to 40 diners, is a popular venue for work parties, birthdays and anniversaries. Call

to discuss your exact requirements. Takeaways are also available for a 20 per cent discount and free home delivery within a three mile radius of the restaurant.

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Bangla Lounge is a popular fixture on Halesowen's High Street

CHOICE



Aiden Turner

Poldark (BBC1, 9.00pm)
New series. The popular period drama based on the novels of Winston Graham returns. The year is 1794, and Ross Poldark throws himself into the business of repairing Nampara, and rebuilding his relationship with Demelza. However, Elizabeth's pregnancy continues to cast a shadow over the pair's marriage. Young Geoffrey Charles is placed in the care of a new governess, and he and Poldark bond over their shared hatred of George. Meanwhile, Demelza visits her dying father at the behest of her brothers, who have taken up Methodism, and Elizabeth places both her own life and that of her unborn child in danger when she tries to hide the fact that she has gone into labour early.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Regional Programme. **11.15** The Big Questions. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **3.00** Flog It! (R) **4.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Points of View. **5.00** Songs of Praise. **5.35** Eat Well for Less? (R) **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **Countryfile.** The rural current affairs series visits Northern Ireland, where Joe heads into the woods near Belfast to help members of the RSPB tag swifts. He also tours a farm where physalis, mustard flowers and Asian radishes are found growing alongside the usual fare of potatoes, carrots and cauliflowers. Ellie takes in sites associated with St Patrick on Church Island, and Adam finds out why herdwick sheep are being used to graze on ground where some of the UK's rarest plants are found. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents a second show from New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde, where items brought in to be valued include diamonds that were found after being hidden inside an upholstered chair, a claret jug that was rescued from a pawn shop, and a banner for Britain's oldest subscription library, founded in 1741. **9.00** **Poldark.** New series. The popular period drama based on the novels of Winston Graham returns. The year is 1794, and Ross Poldark throws himself into the business of repairing Nampara, and rebuilding his relationship with Demelza. However, Elizabeth's pregnancy continues to cast a shadow over the pair's marriage. Young Geoffrey Charles is placed in the care of a new governess, and he and Poldark bond over their shared hatred of George. **10.00** BBC News. **10.20** Regional Programme. **10.30** **Film: Captain America: The Winter Soldier.** (2014) The superhuman soldier battles a mysterious cyborg assassin as he uncovers a sinister conspiracy. Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans. **12.35** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.40** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.35** Countryfile. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **1.00** Triaathlon: World Championship Series - Leeds. The ITU World Series meeting from Leeds. **6.00** **The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway.** Engineer Linda Miller battles to rebuild a Victorian tunnel under the Royal Docks in the East End as part of the Crossrail train line linking east and west London. Meanwhile, the Berminghams attempt to follow in the footsteps of 19th-century father-and-son team Marc and Isambard Kingdom Brunel as they construct a new tunnel beneath the Thames. (R) **7.00** **Dragons' Den.** The panel casts their eyes over plans for an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device - but a restaurateur struggles to get across his business plan. Evan Davis presents. (R) **8.00** **The Life Swap Adventure.** A Guyanese hunter from a rural village in the Amazon rainforest trades places with a civil servant from London who is dreaming of escaping the relentless rat race. **9.00** **Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip.** The Bake Off judge concludes his trip in France, where he tries to find out what makes the country tick when it comes to cars. **10.00** **Mock the Week: Election Special.** Angela Barnes, Ed Gamble, James Acaster, Milton Jones and Tez Ilyas join Dara O Briain and Hugh Dennis for the topical comedy show. (R) **10.30** **White Gold.** Comedy drama set in a double-glazing showroom in Essex in the 1980s, where the unscrupulous salesmen are led by the charismatic Vincent Swan. Ed Westwick stars. (R) **11.00** **Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights.** India v South Africa. **11.50** **Film: Kings of Curry.** (2013) A woman planning her wedding wants both her father and her uncle to attend, so has to resolve their long-standing feud. Comedy, starring Amara Karan. In English and Hindi. **1.10** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Sooty. (R) **6.35** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.40** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.55** The Voice Kids. (R) **1.25** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** Live French Open Tennis. John Inverdale presents coverage of the men's singles final on the 15th day. **6.30** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News;** Weather. **7.00** **Vera.** DCI Stanhope and her team, including new recruit DC Hicham Cheradil, travel to a remote country house when the woman looking after it is killed. No sooner have they arrived, than a second body is discovered. Vera discovers the two victims met the night before their deaths, and goes in search of a connection between them. Forensics evidence reveals that one was definitely present when the other died - but when no murder weapon or motive can be found, Vera begins to suspect a third party was involved. (R) **9.00** **The Loch.** New series. The search for a serial killer in the area around Loch Ness becomes a matter of life and death for local detective Annie Redford, who is trying to cope with her first murder case. When the body of a local man is found at the foot of Carn Mohr Mountain and an isolated human heart on the loch shore, the town's normality is shattered and the nightmare begins. Drama, starring Laura Fraser and Siobhan Finneran. **10.00** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.20** **World Cup Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest round of qualifying fixtures, including Scotland v England, Serbia v Wales, Azerbaijan v Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland v Austria. **11.35** **Lethal Weapon.** Cahill is targeted by a murderous stalker, Riggs begins to obsess over Murtaugh's past, while Roger and Trish locate their daughter's fake ID. (R) **12.30** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.10** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Frasier. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Eating Well with Hensley - Hensley. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Eat the Week. **1.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **2.30** **Film: The Devil Wears Prada.** (2006) Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep. **4.40** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.40** Homes by the Sea. **6.35** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **A Very British Hotel.** Behind the scenes at London's Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park, located in the heart of Knightsbridge and one of the world's most exclusive hotels. It has been a favourite with royals from all around the globe, celebrities and the super-rich for more than 100 years, and the series starts with the hotel in the middle of its busy summer season. (R) **8.00** **Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge.** The competition to find the ultimate cabin in the wild concludes as a treehouse design takes on a stylish tin-clad construction for a place in the grand finale. In the series. **9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offered accompanies Serena Joy on a visit to see Offwarren's baby, but she fears the new mother has become delusional when she confides that she thinks her commander is in love with her. Later Offred is taken away in a black van to be interrogated by an Eye and Aunt Lydia about her knowledge of Ofglen, who has been taken to a detention centre. In a flashback to the rise of Gilead, June and her female colleagues are fired and the government orders a freeze on bank accounts held by women. Elisabeth Moss stars. **10.15** **Formula 1: Hamilton Vs Vettel.** A look at the rivalry between Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel, two multiple champions who seem destined to challenge for the title again this season. **10.30** **Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights.** Action from the seventh round of the season at the Circuit Gilles Villeneuve in Montreal. Lewis Hamilton was looking for his third successive victory in this race and sixth overall. **12.35** Grand Prix: The Killer Years. (R) **1.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Mr Men. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Wipsser. (R) **6.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.50** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.00** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.10** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.15** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.20** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.35** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.00** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.15** Wipsser. (R) **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.05** Little Princess. (R) **9.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.50** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.40** **Film: Agent Cody Banks.** (2003) Family spy adventure, starring Frankie Muniz. **12.40** **Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits 2.** (R) **2.30** FIA Formula E Live. The second Berlin ePrix race. **4.15** **Film: Footloose.** (1984) Drama, starring Kevin Bacon. **6.25** **Film: Dirty Dancing.** (2017) Premiere. Musical remake of the romantic drama. Abigail Breslin stars as an awkward teenager staying with her family at a holiday camp in the 1960s. She embarks on a life-changing romance with the camp's charismatic dance instructor (Colt Prattles), despite the disapproval of her parents and the condemnation of society in general. With Bruce Greenwood, Debra Messing and Billy Dee Williams. Edited for sexual content. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-cat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** **Film: Friends with Kids.** (2011) Premiere. Two single friends decide to have a baby together, while continuing to date other people. Comedy, directed by and starring Jennifer Westfield. With Adam Scott. Includes 5 News Update at 11.00pm. **12.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **1.05** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** **Film: Fighter Attack.** (1953) Second World War drama, starring Sterling Hayden. **4.35** Access. **4.50** House Doctor. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Nigel Slater: Life Is Sweets **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Horizon: Secrets of the Solar System **10.00** Inside God's Observatory: A Sky at Night Special **10.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **11.30** Horizon: 40 Years on the Moon **12.30** Nature's Great Events **1.30** Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **2.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **3.30** Close **ITV2**
11.50 **Film: The Flintstones** (1994) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** **Film: The Flintstones** (1994) **1.35** **Film: St. Trinian's** (2007) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** **Film: St. Trinian's** (2007) **3.30** The Voice Kids **5.00** **Film: Despicable Me 2** (2013) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** **Film: Despicable Me 2** (2013) **6.13** **7.00** **Film: Coyote Ugly** (2000) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** **Film: Coyote Ugly** (2000) **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.20** Teleshopping **5.05** ITV4 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.05 **Film: Death on the Nile** (1978) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** **Film: Death on the Nile** (1978) **2.55** Foyle's War **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** When Phillip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award **8.00** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen **ITV4**
11.15 Live British Touring Car Championship. Round five from Croft. **6.00** The Car Chasers **6.55** Storage Wars **7.25** World Cup Qualifier Live. Macedonia v Spain (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Cycling: Criticism du Dauphine Highlights **11.00** Cycling: Women's Tour Highlights **12.00** River Monsters **2.10** Tommy Cooper **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **E4**
11.00 New Girl **11.30** Kevin Can Wait **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** **Film: Turner & Hooch** (1989) **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** **Film: Star Trek** (2009) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.00** Rude Tube **Film4**
11.00 ParaNorman (2012) **1.00** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) **3.00** Epic (2013) **5.05** Vice Versa (1988) **7.00** Ride Along (2014) **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) **11.15** Oldboy (2013)

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Parenthood, ITV, 10.40pm
Anxious family man Gil Buckman is determined to have a better relationship with his three children than he had with his tough father. Elsewhere, his two sisters are also having family problems. Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin, Keanu Reeves, Mary Steenburgen and Jason Robards. (1989)

TUESDAY
Taken Back: Finding Haley, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A woman whose daughter goes missing spends years obsessing over finding her. She meets a girl who she becomes convinced is her child, and tries to prove that her parents are in fact kidnappers. Thriller, starring Moira Kelly and Amanda Tapping. (2012)

WEDNESDAY
Outrageous Fortune, Channel 4, 1.55am
A porn star and a drama student discover they have one thing in common – they are being two-timed by the same man. When their lover mysteriously disappears, they team up to find him, only to learn he is an agent of a foreign power. Comedy, starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long and Robert Prosky. (1987)



THURSDAY
Expecting Amish, Channel 5, 3.15pm
An Amish teenager joins her friends in Los Angeles, expecting to return home after a year and marry her boyfriend. She has an affair with a DJ during the break, which shakes her devotion to her culture. When she realises she is pregnant, she faces being ostracised from her family. Drama, starring AJ Michalka and Alyson Stoner. (2014)

FRIDAY
Confetti, BBC2, 11.05pm
Three couples compete for the title of Most Original Wedding of the Year, with a film crew following the preparations. Theatre-loving Matt and Sam plan a musical marriage, naturists Michael and Joanna brave the elements for their all-nude nuptials, while fiercely competitive Josef and Isabelle warm up for a sporty ceremony. Spoof documentary, starring Martin Freeman, Jessica Hynes and Robert Webb. (2006)

A lawyer aiming to put right miscarriages of justice

Who said there aren't enough roles for women of a certain age on TV?

Clearly they haven't been watching the box during the past few years, because this is a golden period for such dramas.

Sarah Lancashire recently won a Bafta for her brilliant performance in the second series of *Happy Valley*, while her *Last Tango in Halifax* co-star Nicola Walker has had lead roles in *River and Unforgotten*. Anna Friel is currently appearing in the BBC's *Broken* and previous starred in ITV's *Marcella*.

And then there's Helen McCrory. Although always hugely talented, she's come into her own in recent years, with roles *Peaky Blinders*, *Penny Dreadful*, *Leaving* and now this new, six-part drama.

It's been created and written by Patrick Harbinson, whose previous credits include *24* and *Homeland* (which starred McCrory's husband, Damian Lewis).

"A few years ago I was asked if I would be interested in writing a drama about a radical lawyer," explains Harbinson. "I said yes – as long as the stories could have a strong political element to them, ie they were set in the grey area where politics and law could collide, and as long as the lawyer in question could be something of a throwback – an 'unreconstructed lefty lawyer', as Michael Gambon's character calls her.

"The result was *Emma Banville*, played by Helen McCrory. Fearless is about an abuse of justice, Kevin Russell is convicted of murdering 15-year-old Linda Simms in 2003, and an abuse of power – political forces with no obvious connection to the case are determined to ensure Russell's conviction is upheld."

He adds: "If there's a point to this series, beyond what I hope is six entertaining hours of TV, it's that this apparently 'indefensible' person could one day be any of us – just as one day it was Stefan Kiszko, Christopher Jefferies and five Irishmen on a train from Birmingham – and let's hope there's an Emma there to defend us."

"We've seen strong female leads on TV, but Patrick Harbinson has created a character I've never seen before," says McCrory. "A very vulnerable her to the next generation. A woman who really is a pioneer and is finding her own way. A reaction to her own damaged past, but also Emma cares so much about what's happening in the world about her.

"Emma feels alone. She's not part of an establishment. She's not part of a gang. You see her on the street and you see her investigating and trying to find out the truth. That really touched me because I felt this is exactly where the world is at the moment."

McCrory is at the heart and soul of the drama, but she's surrounded by other fine talents, including the aforementioned Gambon, who plays an influential and highly respected academic, Wunmi Mosaku, who takes the role of Olivia Greenwood, who investigated the Linda Simms case, and John Bishop, who has been cast as Emma's partner.



Jonathan Forbes and Helen McCrory star in *Fearless*, Monday, ITV, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Amazing Animal Births, ITV, 8pm
New series. Zoologist Lucy Cooke sees first-hand the incredible bond between animals and their newborn offspring. She begins by heading to the Yorkshire Dales to join shepherdess Amanda Owen and her husband Clive, who have more than a thousand sheep that lamb on some of the toughest terrain in Britain. Lucy then visits Howletts Wild Animal Park in Kent, which is part of animal conservation charity The Aspinall Foundation, where she witnesses the birth of a black rhino - of which there are only around 2,500 of left in the wild.

How to Stay Well, Channel 4, 8.30pm
New series. GPs Phil Kieran and Helen Lawal and A&E doctor Javid Abdelmoneim investigate worrying medical stories, finding out which ones people should really be concerned about and what can be done to stay healthy. In the first edition, Javid heads to the New Forest to discover whether it is possible to get Lyme disease while walking the dog. Phil carries out an experiment to learn if smart phones are affecting men's fertility, and Helen looks into new research into how far a sneeze can carry disease.

TUESDAY
Jo Cox: Death of an MP, BBC2, 9pm
On June 16, 2016, in the midst of EU referendum campaigning, Jo Cox MP was murdered by Thomas Mair. This documentary tells the story of her attack and events surrounding it via the testimony of those closest to it, including Jo's family, witnesses and those who knew the killer. The victim's political convictions and the issues she fought for dashed with Mair's viewpoint, which some believe motivated him to kill. Here, access to West Yorkshire Police's murder investigation is drawn together for the first time.

WEDNESDAY
Ackley Bridge, Channel 4, 8pm
Jordan finds himself in charge of a baby that he has to sneak into school, but it is harder to conceal than he first anticipated, so blackmails PE teacher Steve into helping him out. Unable to return it to its mother, a stumped Steve ends up taking Jordan and the baby back to his house.



Wife Swap: Brexit Special, Thursday, Channel 4, 9pm

THURSDAY
Wife Swap: Brexit Special, Channel 4, 9pm
The reality show returns for a one-off edition. Pauline, Andy and 14-year-old Katie live on Canvey Island - the area with the nation's third highest 'out' vote. For seven days, bar worker Pauline swaps her home, job and family with psychotherapist and Green Party councillor Kat, who lives in rural Nottinghamshire with her partner Roger and 17-year-old daughter Sophie. These strong-minded women immerse themselves in each other's lives and face issues around immigration, class and racism. But will they hear anything that changes their mind about Brexit?

Battling the Bailiffs, Channel 4, 10pm
Documentary about campaigners on a mission to prevent people being evicted by standing up to bailiffs. The housing crisis has resulted in more than 50 families a week

being evicted. Filmed over nine months, this film follows 42-year-old boxing trainer Chrissy Morris and his friends who are battling the system, spending their spare time travelling around the country and stopping the bailiffs in their tracks.

FRIDAY
Gardeners' World, BBC2, 8pm
The programme celebrates its 50th anniversary at Gardeners' World Live at Birmingham's NEC. Joe Swift and Adam Frost explore the show gardens and meet a designer who has created a garden showcasing 50 years of changing trends.

Lethal Weapon, ITV, 9pm
Riggs and Murtaugh are forced once more to work with DEA agent Karen Palmer in order to protect Leo Getz, an ambulance-chasing attorney linked to the Cartel. As the three delve further into the case, they begin to realise that Leo may not be the only one with a target on his back. Meanwhile, Riggs begins to view Agent Palmer in a new light, while Murtaugh is left worried after Trish makes a spontaneous decision. Damon Wayans, Clayne Crawford and Hilarie Burton star in this fast-paced series, based on the hit, big-screen movie.

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Park and dine at Weston Grill

A friend runs a Shropshire restaurant. He's earned ratings from The Good Food Guide and AA for a menu that combines the best of seasonal flavour. He's busy, pays good salaries and, you'd expect, he'd have a queue of cooks waiting at the door asking for a job.

The opposite is true. Despite being in one of the county's best locations, despite having extraordinary suppliers and despite being one of the most charming employers in the county, the kitchen seems to have a revolving door. Chefs spin in and out at an alarming rate, wrongly imagining that grass is greener elsewhere.

He suffers from what I call the Fish and Chip Conundrum. His customers love fish and chips – but chefs think they're above such fripperies. They want to dazzle like Heston, rather than fry like The Godfather. Fools – the lot of them.

My friend reasons with them, encouraging them to make their version of the humble chip supper the best in the county. He exhorts them to cook with greater precision, to make sure their seasoning is pinpoint perfect, to create a batter that cracks and crunches with the sound of shattering glass and to triple cook their chips in the beef dripping of wagyu cattle, or something similar. . .

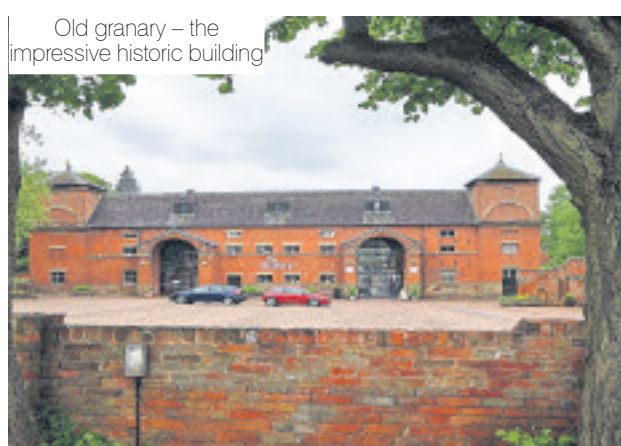
And yet time and again, his chefs give up the ghost because they want to create a pea espuma to serve with a black pepper and pineapple beignet alongside air-dried duck pastrami and spherified white balsamic. Or some such nonsense.

The Granary Grill, at Weston Park, went through a phase where its chefs wrongly imagined they were competing against the county's fine dining elite. And so, for a little while, chefs would over-complicate and

Buns of fun – the Weston burger with fries



Old granary – the impressive historic building



add in layers of needless detail when all the customers really wanted was a decent steak, a stunning burger, a banging plate of moules et frites or a luxurious prawn cocktail followed by a sautéed corn-fed chicken breast with garlic mash.

A few years on and the penny seems to have dropped. The Granary Grill menu 2017 is spot on, featuring a mix of tried and tested gastro pub classics – confit duck leg with lentils, twice-baked goat's cheese soufflé, a rib eye steak with hand cut chips – alongside a few dishes that are a little more exotic but do not

alienate. There are sides that all would recognise: hand cut chips, cider-battered onion rings, garlic mushrooms, béarnaise sauce and a salad et al. The age of chefs having ideas above their station is well and truly over and instead they appear to have adopted the maxim of my restaurateur friend – people love simple food, so make your version better than anyone else's.

For that's precisely what the Granary Grill does. During a midweek supper, my friend and I were dazzled by two courses that really oughtn't to have been anything special: a prawn cocktail and a humble burger.

Both were memorable and stood out from the crowd – more of which later.

Weston Park seems to be on a mission to make eating out the easiest pursuit known to man. It's user-friendly website is easy to navigate, its online booking service the easiest in town – I booked online and within two hours we were sitting down to eat. Easy peasy lemon cheesey (cake).

Delight
The venue remains a delight. Located on the vast and ever-impressive Weston Park Estate, it's easy to reach,

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Sandringham Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B62E1,350 pcm+ Fees
A modern extended detached family home tucked away in this quiet cul de sac on the popular Lodgefield Estate in Halesowen. Featuring: entrance hallway, lounge with dining area, games room with patio doors leading to a very private large rear garden, stunning kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c., 5 bedrooms, 2 en-suites plus family bathroom with shower, garage & driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC: D



Hagley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E1,300 pcm+ Fees
A superbly presented detached family home in prime central location and comes part furnished. Featuring: entrance hallway, dining room with dining table and chairs, delightful lounge with purple sofa & footstool, conservatory with 1 grey sofa, large refitted stunning breakfast kitchen with centre island & integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms with 2 double beds and mattresses, master en-suite, house bathroom, landscaped rear garden, garage & driveway. EPC: C



Gristhorpe Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29E850 pcm+ Fees
PART FURNISHED. A three bedroom semi detached property situated in Selly Oak close to bus links to city centre, university & local shops. The property benefits from 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, loft room, driveway, front & rear garden. EPC: E



Inkberrow Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E750 pcm+ Fees
A 3/4 bedroom town house located in central Halesowen on the popular Huntlands estate comprising of: modern fitted kitchen, large living room, 3 double bedrooms plus bedroom storage, gas central heating, double glazed throughout, bathroom with shower, driveway for 3/4 vehicles, garage, private rear garden. Not to be missed! EPC: D



Whittingham Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E695 pcm+ Fees
The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room, storage area, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F



Beecher Street, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E695 pcm+ Fees
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which is ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower. Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. NO ACCESS TO THE LOFT. EPC: D



Mendip Road, Halesowen, B63E695 pcm+ Fees
A spacious 3 bedroom semi detached home on the Squirrels Estate in Halesowen/Hagley Green, being double glazed and centrally heated throughout. Being located on this popular estate the property would make an ideal family home and has accommodation to comprise a reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, 3 large bedrooms, house bathroom with shower over the lags, parking and garage. MINIMUM CONTRACT 12 MONTHS. EPC: D



Farm Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65E625 pcm+ Fees
A beautiful and well presented is this a large and spacious semi-detached home, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, 2 spacious reception rooms, fitted kitchen, downstairs wc, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, on road parking. A property not to be missed. EPC: TBC



Waterlale Lane, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E625 pcm+ Fees
Located within a short distance of Old Hill Train Station, a short drive from Black Heath and Cradley Heath, is this modern town house, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 spacious lounges, house bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, small enclosed garden, driveway for 1 car and also benefits from an integrated garage. SHORT TERM LET ONLY. EPC: B



Newhall Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65E595 pcm+ Fees
A newly decorated 3 bedroom modern end terrace house with new carpets throughout, Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco storage heating, pleasant rear garden with sheds & parking area. A must see property!! EPC: TBC



St Pauls Place, 40 St Pauls Square, Birmingham, B3E600 pcm+ Fees
A part furnished ground floor studio apartment in St Pauls Square. The apartment features access via secure concierge entrance, hallway, fitted bathroom suite with shower over bath, bedroom area with fitted wardrobes and chest of draws, open plan kitchen/lounge area with sofa and fitted appliances, including fridge, oven, hob and washing machine. EPC: D



Margaret Avenue, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E595 pcm+ Fees
This unfurnished mid terraced property is ideally located for local shops and bus links into Birmingham City Centre and Stourbridge. The property features: lounge, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and driveway parking. EPC: C



Newhall Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65E595 pcm+ Fees
Lovely 2 bedroom end terrace house newly decorated & carpeted close to Rowley Regis train station and M5 motorway comprises of: front lounge with laminate flooring, modern fitted kitchen with oven/hob, private rear garden, 2 double bedrooms, central heating driveway for 2 cars. EPC: C



Aqua Court, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65E575 pcm+ Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. A ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



Heartland Mews, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65E575 pcm+ Fees
A modern 2 bedroom semi-detached house in a pleasant cul-de-sac position, and close to Blackheath town centre, comprising of 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, double glazed throughout, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, driveway for two cars. Viewings are highly recommended. EPC: C



Brett Young Close, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63E560 pcm+ Fees
An impressive ground floor apartment within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre. This modern apartment features 2 double bedrooms, spacious open plan lounge/kitchen with built in washing machine and fridge freezer, bathroom with shower, allocated parking. Also benefits from gas central heating and double glazing. EPC: B



Wycherley Way, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E525 pcm+ Fees
A 1st floor apartment on a popular development close to Cradley Heath and Old Hill Train Station, Old Hill shops and bus links. Featuring gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine and fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking space. EPC: TBC



Round Street, Netherton, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2E525 pcm+ Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. Sit within a popular residential area, this unfurnished semi detached house comprises of a modern living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower and a conservatory. Benefits also include gas central heating, rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. EPC: D LANDLORD REQUIRES 2 MONTHS DEPOSIT AND A FAMILY MEMBER TO BE



King Street, Cradley Heath, West Midlands, B64E450 pcm+ Fees
Located in the heart of Old Hill. Ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge and freezer, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



Causeway Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands, B68E450 pcm+ Fees
Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5 comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch. unfurnished. EPC: D



Mount Street, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 4E425 pcm+ Fees
Centrally located and within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre is this spacious split level flat. Featuring 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower over bath, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC

PROPERTY



Three-bedroom town house new to the market

New to the property market, this tastefully presented three-bedroomed town house in Spring Walk, Halesowen, lies in a quiet cul-de-sac location.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £189,950 with no chain.

Having three floors the property has a reception hall, a large ground floor reception/dining room with access to a garage and downstairs

HALESOWEN

£189,950

cloakroom. The first floor has a large lounge with panoramic views, a kitchen/breakfast room and a shower room. The second floor comprises of the master bedroom and a further two bedrooms. The property has gas central heating

and double glazing and a beautifully tended enclosed rear garden.

In more detail the entrance hall has stairs off and a large storage cupboard.

The rear reception/dining room has patio doors opening out to the rear garden.

For further information contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667.



Imposing family home with six bedrooms is well presented

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Imposing and handsome, this attractively presented and substantial six-bedroomed detached residence in Oakham Road Oakham, Tividale, has just joined the property market.

It is for sale through Taylors at £390,000 with no chain.

It has a spacious entrance hall, a lovely sitting room, a dining room with a feature fireplace, a delightful conservatory addition, a splendid gloss kitchen with integrated units and a dining area, a guest cloakroom/ WC, six first floor bedrooms, two modern well-appointed bedrooms.

There is a substantial driveway and an outstanding rear garden.

Contact Taylors on 01902 880888.

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2

Leisure Time

camping equipment

VANGO ICARUS 500 5-berth tent,
little used and in excellent con-
dition. £110. 01902 761396.

caravans wanted

WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition
Also motorhomes wanted.
TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection.
CALL THOMAS
07717 280 996
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect
asap. Caravan wanted.
Call me on 07717 090817.

caravans / motorhomes

We Want Your Motorhome

Finance Cleared
Fast Secure Payment
Top Prices Paid
Please Call
AEG on 01384 848439 or
Lee Jinks on 07740 895448
www.aegmotorhomes.co.uk

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584823433



AVONDALE 470/2 DART
2008. 2 berth. MTPLM only
1120Kg. Very good condition.
Large shower room.
Motor mover. Replaced tyres.
Awning. Extras.
Retiring from caravanning.
£4,500 ono
01902 333789.



BK CONTESSA
Bluebird, 2003, Static,
26ft x12ft Caravan.
2 bedroom,
6-berth, sighted near to the
river in Worcester.
Very good condition.
£8,250 ovno.
07583 629907.



**QUALITY
CARAVAN**
CH, DG.
One double, one twin bedroom.
Sleeps 6, fitted kitchen and
bathroom with shower, large
lounge and verandas.
Fully fitted, bedding, TV, etc.
Sited prime position,
Haven Black Rock Sands.
Good letting income.
£14,000 ono.
01686 670582/07825 338530.

COACHMAN VIP 530/4
2006. One owner from new,
excellent condition, four berth,
fixed bed, comes with many
extras including Isabella porch
awning, Lafuma loungers etc.
£5,750 ono.
01384 350372.

CROWN REGENT, 1999. 5 berth,
fridge, oven, hot water, toilet,
shower, fire, blinds. Including
awning. Excellent condition, £2,400
ono. 07752 888960.

KAMPA RALEIGH 260 porch
awning, hardly used, excellent con-
dition £125. 01902 761396.



NEAR BEDWLEY
Sited holiday lodge, 11 month
park, on bus route, 3 bedrooms.
As new. Own garden, driveway.
£89,950.
07774 715830.

**REFURBISHED CARAVAN FOR
SALE!** Central Heating and sleeps
8 £17,995. Deposits from 10%. 12
Month Park, Borth. Call Paul 07960
944721.

SITED NEAR BEDWLEY. Static
Willerby caravan, on site clubhouse
and swimming pools. £15,000.
07717 090817.

STERLING ELITE EMERALD
4 berth touring caravan 2011
Excellent condition. Alde wet
heating system. End wash
room motor movers. Awning.
Loads of extras
£11,500 ono
07896 359696

SWIFT FAIRWAY 590
2006. 6-berth touring caravan,
full awning, annex, many
extras.
£6,500.
07397 033304.



TELFORD PARK HOME
On bus route, near all facilities,
Telford, Muxton Park Home.
Fully furnished, own drive, 12
month residential site,
£77,000
07774 715830

car boot sales

***BEST SUNDAY
BOOTSAL***
Only £5 per Car/Van.
7AM START. Cocksparrow Lane,
Cannock WS12 4PB
07890 267 041

**GIANT THURSDAY
CAR BOOT SALE**
This Thursday
and every
Thursday
6am - 2pm at
Mill Lane,
Sarendon WV10 7LJ
Tel: 07831 921 116

WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE
Now at Ivy House Farm, A461,
Springhill, Muckley Corner
Lichfield WS14 0BX
SATURDAY BOOT SALE
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner,
Lichfield WS14 0BU
07890 267041

jumble sales / fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 11th June
Next Sale: 25th June
KINVER COMMUNITY
CENTRE,
DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

ticket

**JANE McDONALD
CONCERT**
Saturday, June 3,
Grand Theatre
£36.50 each.
07843 330185.

holidays

TRAVEL ABROAD
READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertiser
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bonding or
insurance scheme.

**mind, body
& soul**

massage

what's on

antique fairs

***ANTIQUE/
COLLECTORS
VINTAGE FAIR***
CORNHALL, HAGLEY STREET,
HALESOWEN, B63 3AT
9TH JUNE
8.00AM - 4PM
07783 680 627

markets

**STOURBRIDGE
CAR BOOT**
At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 24th May
07957 399964

3
**Home &
Services**

**carpets &
furnishings**

**collectables &
memorabilia**

furniture

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

**For great business
results call
01902 319 191**

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS & CCTV**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
[Work Guaranteed]
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Checkatrade.com

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/dv wallmount
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

auto memorabilia wanted

**SHELL, ESSO,
CASTROL ETC
ALSO**

GARAGE CLEARANCES
Old Enamel Signs,
Petrol Cans,
Old Jugs,
Classic Car Parts,
Bikes and Motorbikes.
Anything old.
** TOP PRICES PAID **
01384 836219/07891 713547

READERS ARE ADVISED to
carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.
Digital aerials, Sky installation. Wall
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

aerials

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from my
Classified
Advertising
Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

**For great business
results call
01902 319 191**

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS & CCTV**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
[Work Guaranteed]
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Checkatrade.com

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST
CCTV cameras fitted/dv wallmount
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

building services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
Over 35 years exp
All aspects of building work
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,
driveways & landscaping.
Discounts offered.
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

gardening services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per
garden, 25 years experience. Call
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

GREENALY
Fencing Decking DBS
Slabbing Turfing Checked
07956 584523 • 0121 550 1712

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

fencing

**PORTWAY
FENCING**
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards. **£695**
Heavy duty posts supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, Wbury
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



"I am extremely
happy with the
service I get from
my Express & Star
Classified Sales
Representative
and I would
recommend them
to anyone!"

Michael -
Portway Fencing.

**For great business
results call
01902 319 191**

Classified Ads

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**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS & CCTV**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
[Work Guaranteed]
01902 858191
01384 429166
01543 439095
01922 716029
07833 738857

VISA
Checkatrade.com

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING
Services. Home/Garden Improve-
ments. Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE
Clean and Reliable. All Work
Undertaken. All Areas. Call
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof
repairs, fascias & gutters. call
01902 238989/ 07580 446449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips
Needed. Load/Remove any Waste,
House Clearance. 07969 628382

skip hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save ££££
All skip hire and grab hire covered
Same day delivery better than a phone call!
Open 7 days a week
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

4
**Pets &
Animals**

equestrian corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation.

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that
they meet all necessary legal
requirements for owning and using
guns.

pets corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
purchasing a puppy there are
some simple guidelines you can
follow to ensure that you are not
purchasing from a Puppy
Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with its
Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any
KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

ROSIE Pretty, 7 year old grey cat
looking for a new home. Suit older
persons or someone living alone.
07847 360784.

WHIPPET PUPPIES KC registered,
microchipped, first injection.
01746 714221 or 07970 261936.

APARTMENT TWO bed, 1 ensuite,
close to Wolverhampton City
Centre. 07831 547211.

ROOMS NETHERTON Refurbished
with Parking. £80 pwk Single.
£90 Double inc. bills. No DSS.
07970171139 or 07940116130.

properties wanted

**Need to sell your
home fast?**
We can help you
make a fresh start
With solutions to suit...
you can clear your debts
and make a fresh start

**Purchase Agreed Within
7 DAYS**
ALL CIRCUMSTANCES CONSIDERED
COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT
FREE VALUATION AND LEGALS
FREE FRIENDLY ADVICE
LOCAL COMPANY

MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY
for an informal, friendly and confidential chat?

0121 405 0797 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with
the response
I get from my Classified
Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

**For great business results call
01902 319 191**

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

**AA DIGITAL
AERIALS & CCTV**
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75
[Work Guaranteed]
0190

FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

- Repossessions stopped
- Houses bought in any condition
- Legal fees paid
- Probate Estates Welcome
- Mortgages / Loans Cleared

CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!

0800 121 6007 **OAKWOOD HOMEBUYERS**

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

overseas property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

7 Jobs

employment wanted

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER
Requires casual / part time work.
Own van / tools.
Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

motor trade

MECHANIC required with experience of removing & fitting engines & cylinder heads.
Halesowen area. Hrs: Mon-Thurs 8.30am - 5pm Fri 8.30am - 4pm immediate start. Salary negotiable. Call Steve 0121 550 3211.

nursing & carers

Lapal House Residential Home
CARE ASSISTANTS
Required Part time 20/30 hours per week, qualifications not essential,
WEEKEND KITCHEN ASSISTANT
Saturday & Sunday mornings 4 hours per day, preparing Residents breakfasts, tea/coffee's etc.
Email CV to Michelle Upperdine at michelle@lapalhouse.co.uk or Call and collect application from Lapal House, Lapal Lane South, Halesowen. B62 0ES
0121 503 0326 (office hours only)

full time - general

MNA Media

MARKETING EXECUTIVE
(MATERNITY COVER - PART TIME)

A talented marketing executive is sought to engage with clients and prospects across the MNA's growing portfolio of print, digital and new businesses.

Working with the Group Marketing Services Manager, the role will be to support the MNA sales teams to meet their business objectives.

The key task is to disseminate market, competitor and consumer insight through rigorous analysis in a timely and communicable way. Working for a modern multimedia business, you will need a strong understanding of traditional media as well as digital.

You must also have good numeracy and analytical skills, have a flexible approach and be able to effectively manage multiple tasks and competing job priorities.

A fantastic opportunity awaits the right candidate with the creativity to match the passion, commitment and focus needed to deliver business success.

The role will be working 22.5 hours per week.

Salary:
Candidates should indicate their salary expectation upon application.
Please send a cover letter and full CV to:
HR Department
Queen Street
Wolverhampton WV1 1ES
E-mail:
hr@mnamedia.co.uk
Closing date:
Friday June 16 2017

Owners of Express & Star Ltd and Halesowen Newspapers Ltd

Express & Star **STAR**

8 Motoring

cars under £1500



BMW 323i
1998, Sport Touring, auto, 60k, petrol, MoT, M3 plate included.
£1,499 ono.
07731 700845.



FIAT GRANDE PUNTO 1.2 ACTIVE
71,800 miles, blue, electric windows, alarm, MoT, new exhaust. Ideal first car. Lovely condition.
£1,300 ono.
Telephone 07375 697505.

FORD FOCUS ZETEC
2007, 1.6 petrol automatic. Alloys, air con, climate pack, 44,800 miles, fsh, (Ford). MoT Jan 2018. Some battle scars outside, excellent inside.
£1,475 ono
07833 675696



HONDA CIVIC SPORT
Blue metallic, 1.4, 5 door. Petrol. 2000 Reg. One owner. 85,000 miles. Full MoT. **£650 ono.**
01902 651490.

GOOD RUNNER

RENAULT CLIO
52 reg, silver, very good runner, economical,
Reliable,
Long MoT.
Bargain
£495 ono.
07554 925292.

BARGAIN

RENAULT MEGANE COUPE 1600 2002.
Nice condition. 12 months MoT. **£400.**
07877 895162.

BARGAIN

ESTATE

RENAULT SCENIC
5dr Estate, 2002, petrol, very good condition.
£495 o.n.o.
01562 720029.

BARGAIN

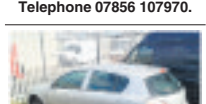
ROVER 600 SI
4dr, 1997, Honda engine, 61,000 miles, still drives like new.
£395s. o.n.o.
01562 720029.

LOOK

TOYOTA STARLET SPORTIF 1.3 Petrol
P reg, genuine 33,000 miles only, MoT, good, clean condition, reliable, ideal first car.
SOLD

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL AGILA
07 reg.
45,000 miles, MoT, service history. Blue, economical, cheap motoring, drives great.
£995.
Telephone 07856 107970.



VAUXHALL ASTRA
2006, 1.6 petrol. Silver, 5 door, hatch. Good clean condition. MoT Feb 2018.
£795 ono.
07944 412012.



VAUXHALL CORSA
1.4 Petrol, 3-dr, 07 reg, 89,978 miles, 11 months MoT, half leather, air con, alloys, parking sensors. Very good condition.
£1,350.
07866 938458.

VAUXHALL MERIVA BREEZE
2006, MoT January 18, tow keys, part service history, two owners from new, central locking, air con, rear tints, 80,000 miles, very good condition, genuine reason for sale,
£795 ono.
01902 784168 or 07947 574131.

IMMACULATE

VAUXHALL VECTRA 2.0 DIESEL
2007
Outstanding condition
Two owners from new,
Full MoT.
£1,450 ono.
07913 821657.

1ST TO SEE WILL BUY

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 PETROL
Beige, 2007, fsh, MoT February 2018, just under 84,300 miles, excellent condition for age, usual wear and tear, sold as seen. Any inspection welcome!
Bargain £1,150 ono.
07922 098124 (Stourbridge).

EXCELLENT CONDITION

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA
06 plate, gas converted, low mileage, full MoT, FSH, 2 keys, excellent condition.
Bargain
£1,495 ono.
07516 668223.

SORRY TO SELL IT

VW BEETLE CABRIOLET
54 reg, 1600cc, MoT, drives and looks great, alloys, PAS, alarmed.
£1,495.
07907 173317.

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FIESTA STUDIO
07 plate, red,
3Dr, 1.25,
full MoT,
lady owner from new,
28k miles.
£2,750.
01384 288663.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA AGO
2010, 998cc,
Group 1 insurance,
lots of MoT,
£20 tax per year,
excellent condition.
£1,595
07851 213316.

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA YARIS 1.3
2005, 5dr hatchback, 2 lady owners from new, full MoT, immaculate condition.
£2,250 ono.
07780 333067.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI COOPER S
2004, 54 plate, six speed, grey, half leather, CD, air con, alloys, new discs and pads, MoT October, HPI clear, clean car.
£1,995.
Telephone 07546 779139.
or van or large 4 x 4 in exchange.



MINI ONE GRAPHITE
09 reg, 81k, 1400cc, petrol, metallic grey, one lady owner, FSH, USB, Aux, Bluetooth, Hill assist, Stop/Start, 6 speed, 10m MoT
£3,700 ono
07878 239301.

MUST BE SEEN

MINI ONE CLUBMAN ESTATE
2011, 45,000 miles, book pack.
MoT April 4, 2018.
Very clean.
£3,950.
Telephone 07814 447682.



PEUGEOT 308 SPORTIUM
1.6 5 door. 2011 (11).
Two owners from new.
FSH (74,000 miles).
Full MoT, Alloys.
A/C. Immaculate throughout.
£3,495.
07970 705466.



RENAULT CLIO 1.2 EXTREME
07 reg, 29,000 miles, FSH, 10 months MoT, excellent condition, ideal first car.
£1,995.
07376 727285.

LOW MILEAGE

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM 1.2
2010, MoT,
55,000 miles,
AC, alloy wheels,
EW, 2 lady owners,
immaculate,
economical.
£3,495 ono
07754 557861.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA AGO
2010, 998cc,
Group 1 insurance,
lots of MoT,
£20 tax per year,
excellent condition.
£1,595
07851 213316.

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA YARIS 1.3
2005, 5dr hatchback, 2 lady owners from new, full MoT, immaculate condition.
£2,250 ono.
07780 333067.



VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 DESIGN
2009, 56,771 Miles, Silver, 1 previous owner, 12 months MOT, Pioneer CD player, in good condition. Ideal first car.
£2,250
07580088338



VAUXHALL INSIGNIA ECO
2010, 79,400 miles, black, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, cruise control, diesel, CD, alloy, new battery, rear sensors.
£4,250 ono.
07817 117962.



VAUXHALL TIGRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4
Low mileage.
Long MoT.
Service History. Leather seats. A/C.
£2,500 ono.
07407 439768 / 0121 530 9905.



VW PASSAT 2.0 TDI AUTO
2010, 76,800k, alloys, heated seats, leather interior, All electric windows 5 months MoT.
£5,795 ono.
07852 778352.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

VW POLO
2008,
1.2 engine, 3Dr,
53,000 miles,
MoT, good condition.
£2,100 o.n.o.
07972 508526.

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.
01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

motorbikes

1970'S trail bike wanted, prefer 4 stroke, registered for the road, some work not objected to. 01902 742507 or 07779 843346.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars
Used cars wanted for cash
Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call.
01562 711083 / 07831 245313

CHEAP MERCEDES A-CLASS
auto wanted, no gear box problems. 07913 956388.

CROWN MOTORS guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

9 Local Information

public & legal notices

KATHLEEN IDA FOX (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Flat 1 Oaklands Court 251 Speen Lane Halesowen West Midlands, who died on 14/11/2016, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 18/08/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
HCB SOLICITORS
Croft House Moons Moat Drive
Redditch B98 9HN
7303464

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to **Marie Hogg on 01902 713146** or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10 Personals

sports clubs



PENN COLTS FC 5/7 A-SIDE TOURNAMENT
U7'S minor - 8/10/12/ and 14's
Saturday, July 1.
U7'S / 9/11/13/15.
Sunday, July 2.
For all application forms visit
www.penncolts.co.uk
or call 07748 677682.

WE NAILED IT!

Classified Advertising Works!

To advertise your business call **01902 319 191**

PLAYERS WANTED
Rock Sports Youth Football Club
Under 13's open trials.
Rock Sport YFC are looking to recruit new talented under 13's (year 7 now), into the newly restructured team.
Train and play with new FA licenced coaches that are looking to springboard Rock Sports further up the league.
Join us on the morning of **Saturday, June 10th** with phase 2 on the morning of **Sunday, June 11th**, at Callow Hill, Far Forest.
For details or to book a place contact Ian on 07712 669914 or Brandon on 07375 389616.

SEDGLIE WHITE LIONS FC REQUIRE PLAYERS FOR

Under 9s New Team
Contact Paul 07793 077503
Under 10s New Team
Contact Nathan 07341 447751
Under 15s to strengthen existing Team
Contact Kevin 07738 624766
All Coaches Police Vetted, First Aid and Safeguarding Trained.
TRAINING THROUGHOUT SUMMER MONTHS.

personal



A FEMALE 65
House and car owner.
Hoping to meet that special male, honest and caring for Friendship and more.
Looks, size, dress not important.
Don't worry we can care for each other and enjoy life together.
Must love animals.
Box Number P20826, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.
Genuine replies only.

ATTRACTIVE lonely Female seeking broadminded males within a 20 mile radius. 01902 489 181.

LOOK

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LONELY MALE, 47,
GSOH, slim, car driver, WLTm lonely female, age and looks unimportant, enjoys pubs, cinema, walks etc, for Friendship/ Relationship.
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OUR FLEXIBILITY IS YOUR MOTABILITY 37

Changes to the Disabled Living Allowance can seem daunting but we are here to make things clearer

Black Country Vauxhall is an award-winning group of four local family-run Vauxhall dealerships; comprising of T Wall Vauxhall in Kingswinford, Dudley Motor Company, Stourbridge Motor House and Halesowen Motor House.

As a group we've become concerned that many disabled people are missing out on having a car through the Motability scheme simply because they don't know much about it, or they think they're not eligible. Confusion is being compounded as the Disabled Living Allowance (DLA) is replaced by Personal Independent Payments (PIP).

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Our Motability Specialists (from left to right): Tony Lister (Dudley Motor Company), Jon Blacker (Halesowen Motor House), Paul Jones (Stourbridge Motor House), Simon Green (T. Wall Vauxhall).

Our specialists are more than happy to talk you through the scheme and find out if you're eligible. They will be by your side with expert knowledge and support throughout your whole Motability experience.

Do you qualify for Motability?

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Vauxhall Motability range: Urban 27.4 (10.3)-74.3 (3.8), Extra-urban 49.6 (5.7)-91.1 (3.1), Combined 38.7 (7.3)-85.6 (3.3). CO₂ emissions 169-88g/km.

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Youngsters from Silverdale FC of Walsall, with their manager Paul Al-Naqib



Max Bailey, aged seven, of FC Newlands



Charlie Ellis, Kyle Arnold and Bailey Arrowsmith, all aged seven, of Cresswell Wanderers



Pelsall Villa FC v Newlands FC of Heath Hayes

McAuley bags kick-off role at tournament

WEDNESBURY Cricket Club swapped stumps for goalposts to help a new Black Country football tournament get up and running.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Lewis Cox

The Fourbury Mini Soccer Tournament – named after co-organisers Four Oaks Football Club and Wednesbury Cricket Club – attracted more than 300 youngsters from all over the region with Albion star Gareth McAuley kicking off proceedings.

After taking on the lease at Wood Green Road as the former sports union disbanded, Wednesbury have been keen to attract more grassroots sports action.

And Wednesbury CC chairman Craig Cartwright declared the event a huge success.

“For the first one we’ve hosted it was absolutely more successful than we could’ve hoped,” he said. “You learn from your first events and tweak things for the future but we’re already planning for more events.”

Weather

“It was brilliant that the facility was being used and everyone was enjoying themselves. We want to thank the council for helping us, including Elaine Costigan and Peter Hughes who have been great.

“We want it used by as many people as possible. The weather definitely helped the event but I think everybody would’ve turned up to play in the rain.”

Around 40 teams competed across the under-six and under-seven age groups and Four Oaks, based in Sutton Coldfield and with more than half of their 21 teams featuring in the Walsall League, hailed their host’s input.

“A venue like this is very much lacking in Sutton Coldfield and we were very pleased with the spread of teams. It shows the draw that football has,” said Scott Ratcliffe, chairman of Four Oaks. “You had Black

“I think the success has been very good and it will spur us on into next year to see how we can improve and grow it.”

Country teams and teams from as far afield as Northfield and also Atherstone. I think the success has been very good and it will spur us on into next year to see how we can improve and grow it.”

The chairman reserved praise for the standard of the Walsall League, which carries teams from under-seven through to under-18s.

He added “We’ve fielded 12 teams in the Walsall League and I would say that the organisation and competitiveness has been absolutely A1. I think the league have to get a pat on the back for everything.

“They’ve made it not just enjoyable, but easy for people to manage teams, turn up and play football. They’ve chosen great venues and have done a fantastic job.”

Solihull’s Olton Ravens won a 3-2 thriller against Cannock side FC Newlands in the under-sevens, while Newlands took home the under-six title, beating Oldbury outfit Brandhall Colts in the final.

Albion ace McAuley, whose seven-year-old son Bobby plays for Four Oaks in the Walsall League, joined hundred of parents and families cheering from the sidelines. He said: “When I was starting out it was only the school team and then county team. A lot of grassroots was missed out.”



Bustleholme in yellow take on FC Premier from Great Barr



Harrison Boswell, with Thomas Birch, gets his boot signed



FC Premier shoot against West Bromwich side Bustleholme

Fundraisers saddle up to help hospice

AROUND a dozen people are saddling up to raise money for Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge next week. Cyclists from across the country will converge on Wolverhampton, for the start of a one-day, 106-mile charity ride from the city out to Aberdovey, Wales.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the annual at the annual Aberdovey Cycling Challenge and the number taking part on behalf of the hospice is the biggest representation the charity has ever had.

As well as the popular one-day event next Friday (June 16), there is also a four-day challenge, beginning on Tuesday (13) which takes cyclists on a route covering more than 400 miles from Wolverhampton to Aberdovey, via Snowdonia. The hospice will have a team representing them in this challenge, who go under the collective name of Team Fablass 5.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: “We’re so grateful to our supporters for dedicating so much time and effort to help support us through this event.”

“I want to pay special mention to the team taking on the four-day challenge. We’re so privileged that they would choose to do something like this for us.”

Boxer Paz to address fans at sports bar

BOXING fans can meet legend of the sport Vinny Paz in Cannock later this month.

Formerly known as Vinny Pazienza, the five-time lightweight and middleweight champion of the world is the inspiration for the 2016 hit film Bleed For This, which is based on his comeback from a spinal injury.

The American fighter, aged 54, appears at Bar Sport’s Premier Suite, in High Green, for an after-dinner speech and question and answer session on Wednesday, June 21.

Tickets start from £45 with VIP packages available. A five-course meal will be served, plus there will be entertainment from a comedian and a memorabilia auction.

‘Paz’ will also be available for photographs with fans.

Doors open at 7pm. Call the ticket hotline on 01543 572092 or email info@premier-suite.co.uk for more details.

He will be the latest in a long line of big name boxers to have appeared at the venue in recent years. Others include Evander Holyfield, Chris Eubank, Sugar Ray Leonard, Roberto Duran, Nigel Benn, Carl Froch, Carl Frampton and Joe Calzaghe.

Frustration as injury rules Woakes out

GREAT Barr’s Chris Woakes has spoken of his frustration after he was ruled out of the Champions Trophy with a side strain.

The 28-year-old Warwickshire all-rounder sustained the injury during his two-over spell in England’s opening eight-wicket win over Bangladesh at The Oval last Thursday.

The England and Wales Cricket Board confirmed the following morning that the key seamer would play no further part in the tournament.

“It’s really frustrating,” said Woakes, who has been replaced by Steven Finn. “It’s a tough one to take, right at the start of a tournament which we have been building up to as a team for a while.”

“I finished two overs but it was probably on the third or fourth ball of the second over that it felt like something had become tight in my side,” Woakes added. “I managed to finish the over but by the last ball I knew that something really wasn’t right. To a certain extent, it felt like someone was sticking a knife in my side.”

Woakes now faces a race against time to be fit for the Test series against South Africa, which begins at Lord’s on July 6.



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Three sign up to join Glassboys

STOURBRIDGE FC boss Gary Hackett has recruited three new signings as preparations intensify for the new football season.

The Glassboys have swooped for 24-year-old central midfielder Aaron Forde from league rivals Rushall Olympic.

Forde was previously in the youth ranks at Walsall and since his release in 2011, he has seen service with the likes of Stratford Town, Halesowen Town and Sutton Coldfield Town before spending one season at Rushall. He is seen as a strong, combative player who is comfortable on the ball and a good organiser.

Hackett's second new signing is 21-year-old left-back Bobby Moseley, who has represented the Republic of Ireland at under-17 and under-19 level. Birmingham born, he was in the Blues academy system before joining Stoke City in 2015. He was freed a year later and last season he had short spells with Solihull Moors, Southport and Gloucester City.

The latest arrival at Amblecote is 27-year-old attack-minded midfielder Danny O'Callaghan, who has played for AFC Telford but has been snapped up from Sutton Coldfield Town. He can also play in the 'number 10' role off the main striker and he notched twice against the Glassboys last season in different games.

The Glassboys have been further boosted with news that two of last season's stalwarts have re-signed. Central defender Jack Duggan, who scored the winner against Northampton Town in the FA Cup, has agreed to return, along with ex-Walsall, Sheffield United and Kilmarnock full-back Darryl Westlake. Hackett said: "We are continuing to talk with our targets and working hard to get the people we want. We've also been talking to last year's players and are close to announcing more of those who have agreed to stay with us."

Pears legends to take field as club marks 175th year

A HOST of Worcestershire cricket legends will take on Stourbridge next month as the High Street club marks its 175th anniversary.

The likes of Richard Stemp, Gareth Andrew, Martin Weston and Paul Pridgen will line up for the Legends XI on July 5 from 1.30pm. In the evening, a Stourbridge Representative XI will take on Worcestershire 1st XI in a T20 clash.

On July 7, current Stourbridge players will take on Stourbridge legends of the 1980s to complete an historic week.

Celebrations will kick off with Stourbridge taking on the MCC on Tuesday, July 4 in a one-day match from 11.30am.

Stourbridge chairman Harilal Jivan-Patel said: "We are very grateful to Mark Asbourne who has organised the cricket week. Our players are looking forward to taking part in this unique event to mark club's 175th anniversary."

Entry to the Wednesday games is £5 for adults, £2 for eight-to-18-year-olds.

A two-course meal will be available on request at £25 per person from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. To book the meal call Liz on 07870 963676.

King of track relives days with Heathens



Lance King in action for Cradley Heathens

LANCE King, a firm favourite with Heathens fans during three glittering seasons with the club, will be special guest at Halesowen Cricket Club on Thursday, June 29 – two days before leading the USA into World Cup action at King's Lynn.

King was part of the all-conquering 1983 Cradley side and finished third in the world a year later when Dudley Wood hero Erik Gundersen took top spot. He will answer questions about his time at the club as well as the rest of his career along with previewing the World Cup campaign.

Said King: "This is something I've been looking to do for some time, it's well over 30 years since

Speedway

I last met up with Cradley fans and I can't wait. The Cradley fans were and still are No.1 in my book and the support and following was amazing for the whole team."

The news follows the announcement of four-time World Champion Greg Hancock coming to the Cleveland Arms, Wolverhampton, on July 20. Tickets for both events will be on sale from the Cradley track shop, Printworx in Cradley Heath market area, from tomorrow (Friday) or online at sportstalevents.co.uk via paypal.

HITTING FORM AT VITAL TIME

HALESOWEN'S season has slipped in to gear at a key time of the year.

With back-to-back wins the side have now moved smoothly into seventh following a tricky start and captain Richard Brooker is much happier with his team's recent form.

Halesowen have now completed comprehensive drubbings of two local rivals in successive weeks, the latest a 31-run win over Old Hill. Batting first, Ed Kilbee (71) and Mohammed Shaub (34) held the Halesowen innings together while the rapidly emerging all-rounders Dylan Ross-Watt (38) and Eddie Rhodes (28no) boosted the total to 204. In reply Old Hill were quickly struggling at 45-5 and only a quickfire 70 from Zahed Kafiat kept Old Hill in it until they were all out for 173.

Brooker said: "It was a good win and pleasing to see us come through some tricky periods of the game when batting to post a competitive total."

Steered

In the Canterbury Cup Halesowen moved in to Round 2 thanks to a nervy three-wicket victory over Redditch Entaco where once again Ross-Watt and Rhodes steered the side home with the bat after Charlie Greening (4-16) bowled tightly. They now play Barnards Green on July 16.

The second team played out a losing draw at Moseley. Moseley's total was held back to just 216-7 thanks to Greening's 6-45 in 12 overs. Greening who has been selected in the ECB Midlands Under-15 team for the Bunbury festival in July, has now taken 51 wickets in all cricket this season.

In reply Halesowen never got on top of the Moseley bowlers and fell well behind the rate to chase down the total, ending on 142-7.

The 3rd team secured a much needed victory at Worcester with John Aston (128*) and Ben Dunn (107*) sharing a magnificent unbeaten opening partnership of 276. Worcester were dismissed for 208. The 4th team were defeated by Old Vigornians. After bowling out the home side for 150, Halesowen were then bowled out for just 96.

On Saturday, the 1st XI are at Sutton Coldfield, start time noon; the 2nd XI are at home to Himley at Seth Somers Park, 12.30pm; the thirds visit Bromsgrove, 1pm and the fourths take on Bredon at Earls High School, 1pm.

Kane feels able to make the cut



Kane Baker ready to pack a punch at The Venue in Dudley tomorrow night

KANE Baker is feeling light on his feet as he prepares to lace on the pro gloves again in Dudley tomorrow night (Friday).

The Brummie welterweight, from Bartley Green, is back in action at the Venue, taking on Yorkshireman Danny Little over four rounds.

The 26-year-old reckons he will make the 147lb cut easily, after staying in decent shape since his last contest at the same venue in April. Baker made it three points wins without reply when he defeated Yaddollah Ghasemi.

Baker said: "I want to go up the levels by testing myself, training has gone well and I was a lot lighter than normal to begin with, so I've been able to concentrate on technique more."

A six-round contest between a big-punching Polish heavyweight Krzysztof Kosela and Stockport southpaw Chris Healey has been added to the bill and will act as chief support.

The main event has also been subject to change, with unbeaten 'Ruthless' Rowley Regis fighter Tyler Denny, aged 25, facing a new opponent for the British Challenge middleweight title because of Mike Byles' injury. Denny will now face Anthony Fox.

The under-card will see four-round action for Les Byfield, Kane Baker, Shaun Cooper and CJ Challenger. Tickets start at £35 on 07976 283 157 or from any of the home boxers on Facebook.

Ace Bardsley nets success at the treble

STOURBRIDGE teenager Charlotte Bardsley is proving to be a table tennis smash after landing three national titles and impressing for England.

The 14-year-old, who attends Heathfield School in Kidderminster, won the Cadet singles, doubles and team events at the Cadet & Junior National Championships – and also took a Junior mixed doubles silver and singles bronze.

Heathfield School pupil Bardsley started by winning the team event with Burton Uxbridge, alongside Megan Gidney and Mollie Patterson, by defeating Ackworth School 3-2 in the final, with all three players winning one match each. She and Gidney then lived up to billing as top seeds in the girls' doubles by defeating Alice Dillon and Darcie Proud 3-0 in the final.

The partners became opponents in the singles final and top seed Bardsley made it a treble on the day by winning 4-0 (12-10, 11-7, 11-5, 12-10).

Bardsley said: "Megan's a really great doubles partner, we have great chemistry, so it was hard to play the final against her. She's a good friend but I managed to win it."

"We won the team event last year so it's good to reclaim the title. Megan really sealed the win and Mollie's win was crucial, so it was a good team effort."

After her success on home soil, Bardsley headed to Europe and reached the quarter-finals of both the Cadet Girls' Singles and Doubles at the Spanish Junior & Cadet Open, in Platja d'Aro.

Hathaway first for BCT in Bala event

BALA Middle Distance Tri is a traditional favourite of Black Country Triathletes and on Sunday, Dave Hathaway was first home for the club in an excellent 5:10:20, finishing fourth in the M50 category.

It involves a 2km lake swim, an 80km ride followed by a 20km run.

In his first ever triathlon, Tom Cowdale came home in a fabulous 5:40.

Gary Hickman finished his first open water swim event in Blenheim, the Sprint Triathlon – a 750m swim, 20km bike and 5km run – in 1:24:44. Ben Monkton did the Deva standard distance triathlon in Chester, a 1500m swim, 40km bike and a 10km run, in 2:16:55.

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